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Happy Birthday
RockCJ!

Happy Birthday
Maka & Thief!

3軒隣の遠い人
vol.1

Tsuta Suzuki
Presents
3軒隣の
遠い人

MY BROTHER AND I ARE THREE YEARS APART IN AGE
OH HEY MITSUYA!
YOU'RE BACK
HEY

AND THIS GUY HERE? HE LIVES THREE DOORS DOWN FROM US
Sheesh.
...
AND WHAT THIS? NO "IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME"?
WELL... MY MOM'S WORKING LATE TONIGHT SO I'LL BE JOINING YOU GUYS FOR DINNER
WHAT'S NORORU DOING HERE?
YOU JUST GOT BACK OR SOMETHING? IT'S PRETTY LATE
NICE TO SEE YOU HOME

MITSUYA, YOU WANT TEA? I CAN POUR SOME FOR YOU AS WELL.
THEY'VE ATTENDED THE SAME SCHOOLS FROM ELEMENTARY TO SENIOR HIGH
WE PRACTICALLY GREW UP TOGETHER AND HE'S IN THE SAME SCHOOL YEAR AS MY BROTHER

THEN THERE'S ME STILL STUCK AS A MIDDLE SCHOOLER AND LEFT BEHIND TO FOLLOW THEIR DUST TRAIL
IT'S JUST A PHASE. DON'T WORRY. HE'S NOT ALWAYS LIKE THIS
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
HEY..
Snub

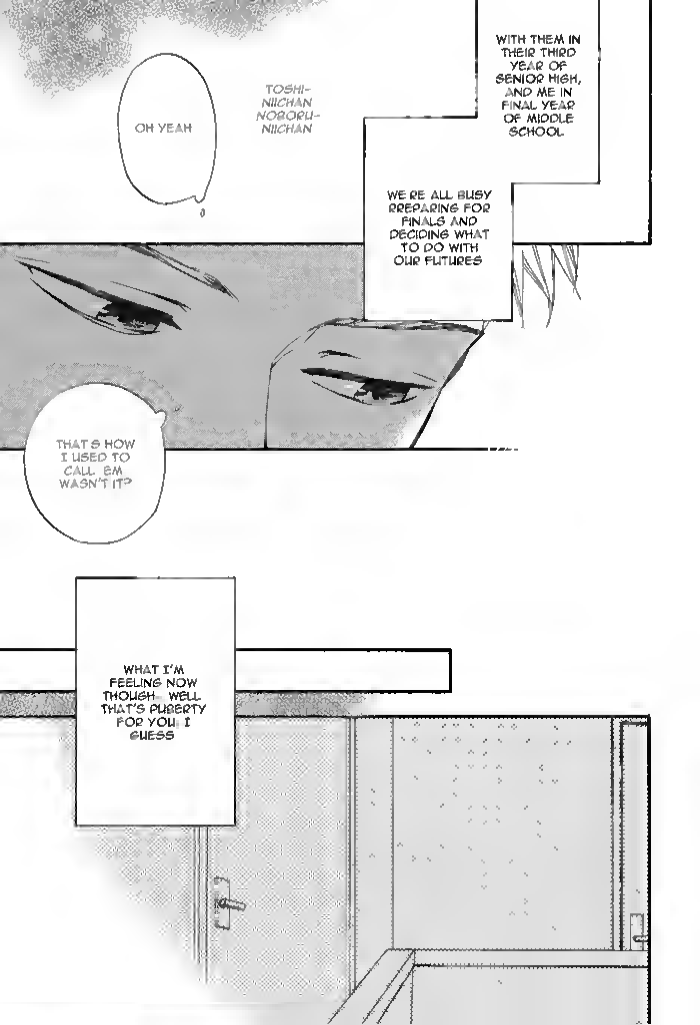
I'VE NEVER EVEN WALKED TO SCHOOL WITH THEM IN THE MORNING THERE JUST WASN'T ANY CHANCE TO
SLURP
SLURRRRRP
SURE WAS A SHOCK FOR ME THOUGH
WHEN I REALIZED THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL EVER GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL
POP
shuffle
BUT IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN THEM TOGETHER LIKE THIS
MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT DIDN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME BACK THERE
IT'S ALSO BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE FELT THIS WAY
I ENVIED THE FACT THAT THE TWO OF THEM WERE BORN IN THE SAME YEAR.

BACK THEN, I WAS ONLY IN MY FOURTH YEAR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
AN IMPRESSIONABLE AGE WHEN MY CHARACTER WAS STILL BUILDING UP.
IN OTHER WORDS,
I WAS A BRAT AT A BRATTY STAGE WITH BRATTY DESIRES,

Whoa!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GET UP?
MITCHAN!
AND I DON'T THINK I'M COMPLETELY OVER IT YET EITHER
THE FOOD'S READY!

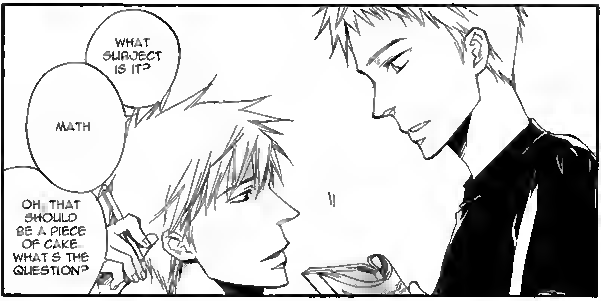
...!
NICE LEGS YOU TRYING TO UP YOUR SEX APPEAL OR SOMETHING?
GET CHANGED ALREADY
OH, JUST LEAVE HIM. HE THINKS IT'S A HASSLE TO CHANGE BEFORE A SHOWER.
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO COMPLAIN SINCE IT LESSENS MY LAUNDRY LOAD
Here.
AH, THANK YOU OBACHAN
HUH
HARD TO IMAGINE HIM THINKING OF OTHERS
Oh, geez.
weird.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A WHILE YOU SURE HAVE GROWN, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU'VE GROWN A LOT TALLER ANYWAY
HOW TALL ARE YOU NOW?
...
OOH, HERE COMES THE SCARY BIG BROTHER
LAY OFF HE'S A GOOD KID
These two had better shut up soon

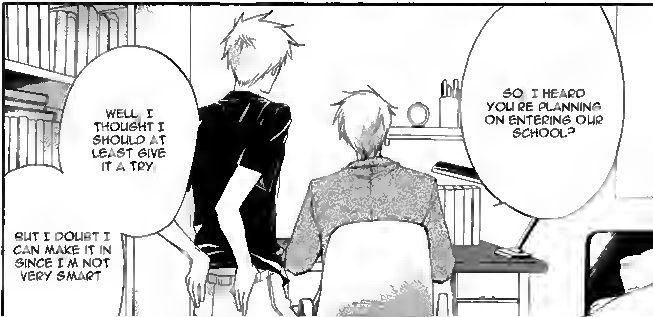
HE'S CALLED NORORU TAKASHINA.
HE'S BEEN CLOSE FRIENDS WITH MY BROTHER SINCE THEY WERE BOTH STILL IN DIAPERS
COME ON ANSWER ME
AW YOU USED TO BE SO CUTE WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE
Seriously, what's up with him already?
IT'S WEIRD
WHY IS HE ACTING ALL BIG BROTHERLY AND SHIT ANYWAY?
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE WE DIDN'T ALL GROW UP TOGETHER


WITH THEM IN THEIR THIRD YEAR OF SENIOR HIGH, AND ME IN FINAL YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL
TOSHI-NIICHAN NOBORU-NIICHAN
OH YEAH
WE'RE ALL BUSY PREPARING FOR FINALS AND DECIDING WHAT TO DO WITH OUR FUTURES
THAT'S HOW I USED TO CALL 'EM WASN'T IT?
WHAT I'M FEELING NOW THOUGH... WELL THAT'S PUBERTY FOR YOU, I GUESS

DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME? I NEED A FAVOR
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN TEACH ME THIS PART? I'M STUCK
SURE THING. WHAT'S UP?
YEAH

KNOCK
KNOCK
BRO. CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A SEC?
SURE C'MON IN


WHAT SUBJECT IS IT?
MATH
OH, THAT SHOULD BE A PIECE OF CAKE. WHAT'S THE QUESTION?


SO, I HEARD YOU'RE PLANNING ON ENTERING OUR SCHOOL?
WELL, I THOUGHT I SHOULD AT LEAST GIVE IT A TRY.
BUT I DOUBT I CAN MAKE IT IN SINCE I'M NOT VERY SMART

WELL, I KNOW I'M NOWHERE NEAR YOUR LEAGUE, THAT'S FOR SURE
WHO RE YOU TRYING TO KID, KIDDO?
WITH THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN POPING OVER YOUR TEXTBOOKS IT'S YOUR BEING UNABLE TO GET IN THAT I FIND MORE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE
I HEARD FROM SOME OF THE GIRLS IN MY YEAR THAT
HAHA, YOU SURE LOVE TO EXAG-GERATE, DON'T YOU?
BUT SINCE IT'S COMING FROM YOU, I'LL TAKE IT AS A COM-PLIMENT
...
Yeah, well, so you helping or not?
THEIR POPU-LARITY IS SO VAST, IT ACTUALLY EXTENDS ALL THE WAY TO OTHER SCHOOLS
WITH THEIR LOOKS, INTELLECT, AND AFFINITY FOR SPORTS

IF I WERE TO ENTER THEIR SCHOOL, I'LL END UP LIVING IN THEIR SHADOWS WHILE THAT OUTLOOK DOESN'T SIT QUITE WELL WITH ME
THE THOUGHT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO GET IN, WHILE THOSE TWO DID EASILY, SITS EVEN LESS WELL
Okay, I'll show you how to do this once. Pay close attention now.
Yeah.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF WHAT I FEEL I GUESS

WELL... IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'LL STILL BE AROUND BY THE TIME I ENTER MY FIRST YEAR THERE
Here's what you should do instead...
This one here looks a little off
Right

HUH? THAT'S A SURPRISE
REALLY? IT SHOULDN'T BE YOU KNOW I MEAN IT'S A GIVEN THAT WE WON'T EXACTLY GO DOWN THE SAME ROAD IN LIFE AND ALL.
Yeah? Lemme check your answer, then
Okay, I did it
HAVE YOU DECIDED ON A UNIVERSITY?
ARE YOU GOING TO THE SAME ONE AS NOBORU?
HUH? AH NAH..

I'LL BE MAJORING IN ARCHITECTURE AND I'M PRETTY SURE NOBORU'S GONNA BE DOING SOMETHING ELSE.
"PRETTY SURE"?
I WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU GUYS DISCUSSED IT AMONGST YOURSELVES ALREADY
WELL, I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY SAID ANYTHING TO HIM YET.
CUZ, WELL, YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TELL JUST BY LOOKING, BUT HE'S NOT ALL THAT EASY TO DEAL WITH
Well hey, you got it right!
crack
I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO PRETEND THAT I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
Hmmmm...
BUT I SUPPOSE YOU GUYS DO HAVE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS HUH?
EH?
Whadaya mean, "what I'm talking about"? You're not saying that you don't understand all of what I've just thought you, are you?
...

THAT'S STRANGE
NOBORU'S WALKING ALONE
OH WELL. IT'S NOT LIKE HE AND BRO WERE BORN ATTACHED AT THE HIP OR ANYTHING
"HE'S NOT ALL THAT EASY TO DEAL WITH."
hesitate
. . .

HEY
HEADING HOM—
shuffle
!
HUH?
SWIPE
SWIPE
DAMN,
HE SAW.
...
WELL, THAT WAS A SHOCKER
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM CRY BEFORE
I GUESS EVEN HE CRIES ONCE IN A WHILE
HERE, TAKE IT.

HA HA THANKS
YOU'RE QUITE ALL RIGHT, KID
HN

WAS TALKING WITH HIM..
YOU CAN LOOK THIS WAY WHEN YOU TALK TO ME. YOU KNOW IT'S ALL RIGHT I WON'T BITE
IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE WE WALKED HOME TOGETHER LIKE THIS. HASN'T IT? NOT SINCE YOU WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
I GUESS

AS KIDS NIICHAN USED TO CONSIDER NOBORU AS "HIS" TO THE EXTENT THAT I DIDN'T GET TO PLAY WITH HIM MUCH

SUDDENLY REMEMBERING WHAT IT FELT LIKE WAS A SHOCK TO MY SYSTEM.
YOU MEAN EVEN FROM TOSHI-NII?
YES.
FROM HIM AS WELL.
BUT
AND FOR SOME REASON, HIS NEXT WORDS
ESPECIALLY FROM HIM

...MADE ME TURN COLD INSIDE.
...
I COULDN'T EXPLAIN WHY.
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T SAY ANYTHING.
AND WELL, LET'S FACE IT IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING EVEN IF I DID.
UH...
WELL, YEAH, I GUESS YOU HAVE A POINT.

BUT STILL I'M SORRY

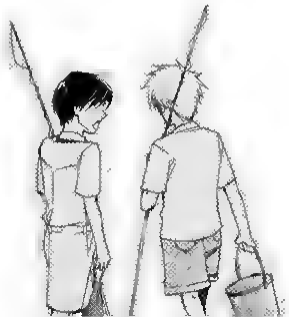
NOBODY TOLD ME BUT I KNEW NIICHAN WAS THE REASON FOR THOSE TEARS

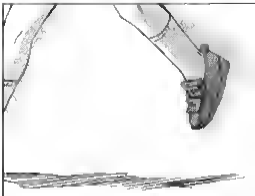
BUT - THIS BURNING SENSATION INSIDE ME - WHO CAN I BLAME IT ON?

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO MEAN TO HIM? JUST LET HIM TAG ALONG

NO IT'S DANGEROUS SO GO HOME

I WANNA GO TOO!



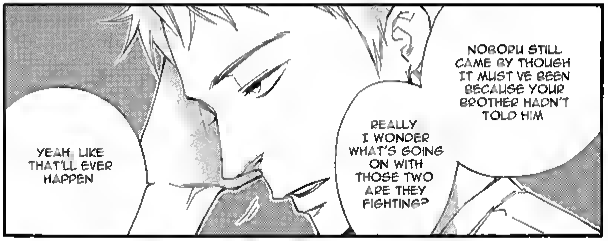


NIICHAN! WAIT FOR ME!

COME ON MITCHAN!

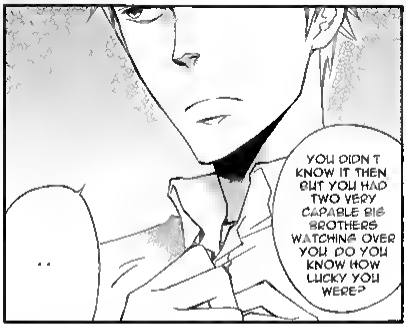
*IF SO, WILL THESE PENT-UP FEELINGS INSIDE OF ME SUBSIDE WHEN THAT HAPPENS?*

HM? WHERE'S NIICHAN?
*ttle
HE LEFT FOR SCHOOL ALONE AWHILE AGO.


NOBORU STILL CAME BY THOUGH IT MUST'VE BEEN BECAUSE YOUR BROTHER HADN'T TOLD HIM.
REALLY. I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THOSE TWO ARE THEY FIGHTING?
YEAH. LIKE THAT'LL EVER HAPPEN

WHY. SOMETIMES THEY'D EVEN FIGHT OVER YOU.
ACTUALLY NOW THAT I THINK OF IT. MOST OF THEIR FIGHTS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOU. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
DID YOU KNOW? NOBORU-KUN USED TO SOMETIMES GET SO JEALOUS OF YOU.

WELL. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY STILL DO IT NOW
BUT WHEN THEY WERE LITTLE. THEY USED TO BITE EACH OTHER FOR THE SMALLEST THINGS



I can't. It's part of my Effective Time Management scheme
And would you get changed properly for once?
Every morning, it's the same thing with you
Hadakimasu

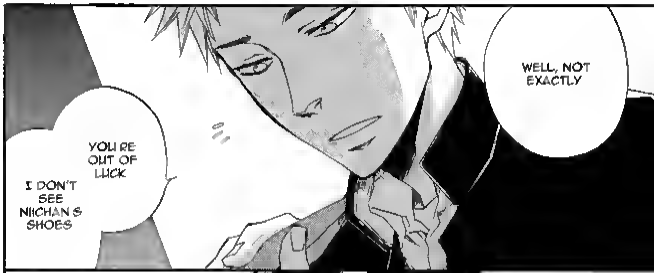
WITH SO MANY OTHER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE DISTRACTED. YET, MORE AND MORE THINGS SEEM TO KEEP POPPING UP SOMETIMES, I JUST HAVE TO WONDER "WHY ME?"

EVER SINCE THAT DAY, I CAN'T SEEM TO GET THE IMAGE OUT OF MY HEAD. EVERYDAY, AS I'M WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL, IT JUST LOOPS OVER AND OVER IN MY HEAD LIKE A MOVIE

THE IMAGE OF HIS FACE EMBITTERED AND TEARY YET SOMEHOW BEAUTIFUL IN A FRAGILE WAY - ALL OF IT BURNED INTO MY MEMORY IN VIVID TECHNICOLOR
Creak

M-MITSUYA...
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
Quick
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?

YO WHAT ARE YOU DOING JUST STANDING THERE?
Startle
Argh!


WELL, NOT EXACTLY
YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK
I DON'T SEE NIICHAN'S SHOES

OH..
WELL, THEN...
I GUESS I SHOULD JUST LEA..
YOU DON'T HAVE TO

EH?
IF YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HERE I WON'T TELL HIM
BUT IF YOU WANNA WAIT FEEL FREE TO WAIT IN MY ROOM

. . .
WHAT THE .
WHEN DID YOU GROW UP AND LEAVE THE REST OF US BEHIND?

IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING
DID YOU AND NICHAN HAVE A FIGHT?

NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT NOT QUITE ANYWAY
I WAS THE ONE WHO GOT ANGRY OVER NOTHING
MAYBE THAT'S NOT IT EITHER
SINCE ALL I DID WAS ACT ALL SPOILT...
ALL I THOUGHT OF WAS THE HUGE AMOUNT OF POTENTIAL HE HAS...
AND HOW HE WAS JUST GOING TO LET ALL THAT GO TO WASTE
WHEN HE TOLD ME WHAT HE'S DECIDED TO DO INSTEAD, THAT'S IT. I JUST BLEW UP IN HIS FACE...
I GUESS EVER SINCE WE WERE LITTLE HE'D NEVER LIKED THAT PART OF ME
SO HE TOLD ME NOT TO COME BY ANYMORE UNTIL I'VE COOLED OFF SOME. AND WELL HERE I AM.
HUH. I'D NEVER GUESS HE'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT

Heh.
WELL, YOU'RE SPECIAL.
I MEAN, YOU'RE STILL HIS BROTHER NO MATTER WHAT.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TOP THAT.
THIS IS THE WAY THINGS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN, YOU KNOW?
YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A PLACE IN HIS HEART AND I USED TO REALLY ENVY YOU BECAUSE OF THAT. HELL, I PROBABLY STILL DO.
WAIT. DON'T TELL ME HE DOESN'T REMEMBER AT ALL.
ALL THOSE TIMES I SHOUTED AND CRIED AND PLEADED AND BEGGED FOR THEM TO WAIT.
AND NOT TO MENTION ALL THOSE TIMES WHEN ALL I COULD DO WAS STARE AT THE BACKS OF THEIR DARK WINTER UNIFORMS SILENTLY TRYING MY BEST TO KEEP UP WITH MY SHORT LEGS WITH THE PANZER SAC I WAS TOTING ON MY BACK, I WAS PRACTICALLY THE POSTER CHILD FOR "PATHETIC YOUNGER SIBLING."

IF ANYTHING,
I WAS THE ONE
FULL OF ENVY
HUH.
YOU'VE GOTTA
BE SHITTIN' ME.

W-WHA..
HEY!
WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT HIS POTENTIAL AND HOW HE'S WASTING ALL OF IT PRETTY WORDS ALL OF THEM THAT'S ALL THEY WERE WEREN'T THEY? PRETTY WORDS TO HIDE THE TRUTH
THE TRUTH IS ALL YOU EVER REALLY WANTED WAS TO STICK WITH HIM STAY WITH HIM AND BE BY HIS SIDE FOREVER THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT? THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY MEANT
"TIL DEATH DO US PART."
...!
FLUSH

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?
RUSTLE
mm!
Mph
mmmph!
mn
AH
nnnnmph!
kiss
smack
ph
mrgh

GRAPE
YOUR LITTLE FELLA HERE SEEMS TO LIKE IT
!
WHACK
OW!
FRIGGIN' DIE, ASSHOLE!
WHAT THE FUCK?! DID YOU THINK THAT WAS FUNNY?!

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
Huuuh
OW!
He busted my lip
"YOUTHFUL INDISCRETION" "MISTAKES MADE AS A RESULT OF YOUTH" CHALK IT UP WHICHEVER WAY YOU WANT
HEY MITSUYA
WAS THAT NOBORU I SAW RUNNING LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELL? WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
BECAUSE IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT IT HAPPENED AND WITH THAT ONE GRAVE MISTAKE I EFFECTIVELY DROVE NOBORU OUT OF MY LIFE NOT TO BE SEEN AGAIN FOR TEN LONG YEARS
vol. 1
END

# Sangen Tonari no Todi Hito

By Suzuki Tsuta

Chapter 1
Volume 1

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3軒隣の遠い人
vol.2

RATTLE
HUMAN SOCIETY IS A HASSLE
THE "ADULTHOOD" THAT WE'VE ANTICIPATED SINCE WE WERE KIDS - IT'S ALL WE EVER WANTED TO BE -
RATTLE
Squeeeeal
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT
What page was I on again?
DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING
Slinide
flip
flip
flip
- IS NOTHING BUT A PAIN IN THE NECK

WHOOSH
ON THE GROUNDS OF BEING SHORT-HANDED, WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SHORT BUSINESS TRIP MORPHED INTO A PERMANENT TRANSFER
IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE I STARTED HAVING TO BRAVE THE HUMAN RUSH HOUR. THAT'S TWO WEEKS OF BEING JOSTLED THREE WAYS TO SUNDAY. MIND YOU
HM
daydream
MURMUR
MURMUR
DO ALL THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH EXORBITANT RENTS AS WELL?
I'M JUST BEGINNING TO GET USED TO IT. THOUGH I'M NOT SURE IF THAT'S A GOOD OR BAD THING.
K-KISHIMOTO-SAN
GOOD MORNING

GOOD MORNING I'M SORRY, DO I KNOW YOU?
I'M YANASE FROM GENERAL AFFAIRS
WE MET ON YOUR FIRST DAY
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I BEG YOUR PARDON.
SO WE'RE IN THE SAME DEPARTMENT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT. HE DOES LOOK KIND OF FAMILIAR
S-SO WE BOTH TAKE THE SAME TRAIN TO WORK EVERYDAY... FANCY THAT, DON'T YOU THINK?
U-UM I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO CALL OUT TO YOU. IT'S JUST THAT I SAW YOU AND BEFORE I COULD HELP IT...
?
SIGH
IF MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT, PEOPLE IN THE OFFICE CALL HIM "THE JINX"
AND WHENEVER THINGS DON'T GO RIGHT, EVERYBODY SEEMS TO TAKE IT OUT ON THE POOR GUY
YEAH, RIGHT. YOU SO DON'T WANT TO DO THIS BUT YOU SAW ME FIRST SO WHAT THE HELL, RIGHT? IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE, DUDE
? ?
PLEASE DON'T FEEL OBLIGATED ON MY BEHALF
GEEZ, KID. HOW'D YOU EVEN MANAGE TO SURVIVE AND COME THIS FAR?
I'M HONORED THAT YOU REMEMBERED MY NAME.

AH IT'S ALL RIGHT
smile full of radiance
Tactic #003 The Radiant Smile™ For professional purposes only
blush
THANK YOU AND PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES SENPAI FOR NOT REMEMBERING YOURS
MY HEAD'S ALWAYS EMPTY IN THE MORNING. YOU SEE IF ASKED, I PROBABLY WON'T EVEN REMEMBER MY OWN NAME.
O-ONE THING - YOU DON'T NEED TO REFER TO ME AS "SENPAI".
I MEAN WE'RE IN DIFFERENT STATIONS AND ALL
SO YOU CAN JUST CALL ME BY MY NAME
PRETTY OUTSPOKEN AREN'T WE?
THEN PLEASE ALLOW ME TO CALL YOU "YANASE-SAN."
DO YOU ALWAYS COME AROUND THIS TIME?
I MUST SAY, YOU'RE VERY EARLY
WELL...YES AND YOU? YOU'RE VERY EARLY YOURSELF.

OH, MORNINGS NEVER AGREE WITH ME. SO IF I DON'T GET UP EARLIER, MY MIND WILL NEVER WAKE ITSELF UP IN TIME FOR WORK
I SEE
YOU DON'T LOOK THE TYPE, KISHIMOTO-SAN. IF YOU DON'T MIND MY SAYING
UM... I'M NOT USED TO BEING REFERRED TO AS "SAN" BY THOSE OLDER THAN I AM.
SO I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD EITHER DROP IT OR SIMPLY REFER TO ME AS A "KUN".
HMM KISHIMOTO-KUN?
THAT'S RIGHT
THAT SOUNDS MORE APPROPRIATE, DON'T YOU THINK?
beam
WHAT A PUSHOVER
QUITE OBVIOUSLY THE ERRAND BOY TYPE
IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE THAT DAY...

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT IS I'M A GROWN-UP WITH GROWN-UP ISSUES NOW.
AND THE ONE THING I CAN PROUDLY CLAIM TO HAVE ACHIEVED IS NOT ONLY HAVE I LEARNED TO SMILE MORE I'VE DAMN NEAR PERFECTED IT
riiiing
riiiing
DOG EAT DOG THIS WORLD MAY BE, I GUESS YOU CAN SAY I'VE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO ADAPT.
STILL...
OH.
GOTTA ANSWER THAT

Did you plan on ever telling me? Or is this your way of saying goodbye?!
I thought it strange that I didn't hear from you for two weeks, and then I heard you moved away!
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?!
HOWEVER WE HAVE MADE SURE TO INFORM YOU. SO IF YOU COULD PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR STAFF..
Tactic #23 Fusimess Camouflage
I'M TRULY SORRY. BUT THERE WERE SUDDEN CHANGES THAT WERE BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

VERY WELL..
Don't call me any-more! I don't ever want to hear from you again! Loser!
Fine. If that's the way you want to play it. It's over between us
I'VE NEVER QUITE GOTTEN THE HANG OF RELATIONSHIPS..

Uh... H...ello.
I'm real sorry to bother, but this is the file the person who was in your position before had asked me to compile for you to look over.
I'm just here to deliver it
I MEAN WHAT WITH HER SLEEPING AROUND WITH OTHER MEN AND ALL
Spaced out
...not like she was all that great a catch to begin with
I SUPPOSE IT'S JUST AS WELL

Ah—
I-I MAY HAVE OVERHEARD BITS AND PIECES
B-BUT I SWEAR I DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE!
Fuck
DID YOU HEAR EVERYTHING?
W-WELL, YOUR TRANSFER WAS PRETTY ABRUPT
I SUPPOSE IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD FOR BOTH OF YOU
WELL.
I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE SHE DUMPED ME
I-I'M SO SORRY
Click
HM? YOU'RE STILL HERE KISHIMOTO?
GREAT YOU CAN COME WITH ME THEN
YES. I'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE

THANKS FOR BRINGING THE FILE OVER
ALSO
WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE - IT WASN'T SOMETHING YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
...!
YOU COMING OR WHAT?
AH, YES, RIGHT AWAY
U-UM
K-KISHIMOTO-KUN!
beam
I'D LIKE THAT VERY MUCH, THANK YOU
MY TREAT
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT FOR A DRINK WITH ME SOME TIME?

NO, IT'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE THAT
WE JUST HAPPENED TO BE TALKING, IS ALL.
I SEE.
WELL, HE'S AN ODD ONE, THAT KID.
BACK THERE
YOU SEEMED TO BE GETTING ALONG WELL WITH THE JINX YOU TWO CLOSE TO EACH OTHER?
I HEARD FROM THE GUY WHO USED TO HANG OUT WITH HIM
THAT EVER SINCE THEY STARTED BEING FRIENDS, HE'S BEEN LOSING BIG AT THE PARLORS AND STOCK MARKET.
AND IT'S NOT ONLY THAT. IT SEEMS THE VALUE OF THE PIECE OF LAND HE OWNED PLUNGED,
AND HIS GIRL LEFT HIM ABOUT THE SAME TIME.
...
Chime
BUT THEN, NOT EVEN A MONTH AFTER THE LAND VALUE INCIDENT, HE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO GET HITCHED TO A REAL BEAUTY,
SO I GUESS, IN THE END, IT WASN'T A TOTAL LOSS FOR HIM.
WELL, LIKE I SAID, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT KID.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO OUT DRINKING WITH HIM, LET ME IN ON THE JUICY BITS, YEAH?
...
I'm not quite sure I follow...

I'M SO SORRY
OH
...SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT
I'll just go get the car key!
All right
I GUESS HE'S JUST ONE OF THOSE UNFORTUNATE TYPES WHO ALWAYS SEEM TO CATCH PEOPLE AT BAD TIMES
WHAT SHITTY LUCK POOR GUY
Slurp Slurp
THEN AGAIN HOW DOES ONE DEFINE BAD LUCK ANYWAY?
IF IT'S MORE OR LESS WHAT I THINK IT IS... THEN
...ONE PERSON DOES COME TO MIND.

EVERY NOW AND THEN, I STILL HAVE FLASHBACKS OF THAT DAY
I'D SUM IT UP TO IMMATURITY
OR JUST PLAIN BRASHNESS BROUGHT ON BY YOUTH
BUT THE ACTION WAS UNINTENTIONAL THAT MUCH I'M SURE OF
MAN, I MUST HAVE SEEMED SO DESPERATE
I GUESS THAT ABOUT SUMS UP MY VERY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH LOVE

"KISHIMOTO-KUN."

"MITSUYA..."

I GUESS
THEY'RE RIGHT

IT WAS LOVE
I LOVED HIM

IF ONLY I'D KNOWN BACK THEN WHAT I KNOW NOW, I-WOULD'VE BEEN MORE GENTLE AND SUBTLE IN MY ACTIONS
I PROBABLY STILL DO. I KNOW THAT NOW.

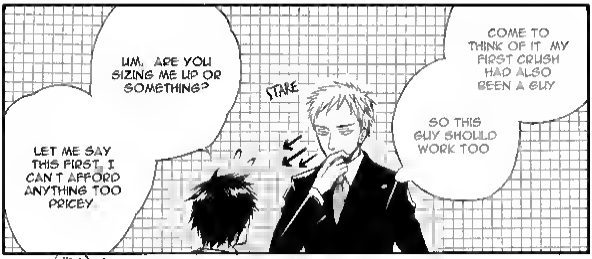
THE CRUEL TOUCH BETWEEN HIS LEGS AND THE CRUDE WORDS I SAID WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY.
WHAT THE FUCK?! DID YOU THINK THAT WAS FUNNY?! FRIGGIN' DIE, ASSHOLE!
IF ONLY...
bright and early
Hey!
You look like you could use more sleep
OH THAT'S RIGHT
KISHIMOTO-KUN, GOOD MORNING!
Slave
GETTING DUMPED YESTERDAY MUST HAVE TAKEN A LARGER TOLL ON ME THAN I THOUGHT
I'M HAVING BAD DREAMS AGAIN

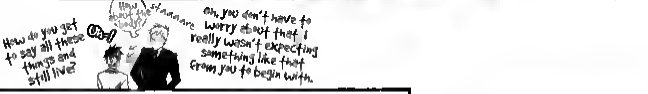
COME TO THINK OF IT YANASE-SAN.
YOUR HAIR S BLACK, AND YOU LIKE TO KEEP IT PARTED AT THE CENTER DON T YOU?
UH, YEAH SO?

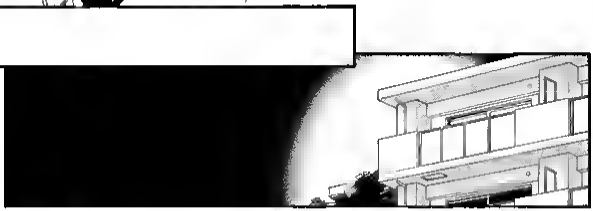
HE DIDN'T SEEM APPEALING AT ALL TO ME AT FIRST
WHAT S WITH HIM?
SAY, KISHIMO-TO-KUN
TODAY, WHAT SAY YOU AND I GO FOR THAT DRINK I MEN-TIONED BEFORE?
SO?
WELL, HE CAN'T BE CONSIDERED PRETTY PER SE
BUT STILL...
stare
It'll cheer you right up!

BUT SOMEHOW, HE S LOOKING MORE AND MORE SO TO ME NOW
THAT SOUNDS NICE, THANK YOU
I SUPPOSE THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU TURN TO A GUY FOR COMFORT
You're up!
THAT S EXACTLY RIGHT?
BELIEVE IT OR NOT SOMETIMES IT TAKES A GUY TO CHEER ANOTHER ONE UP
completely missed the point

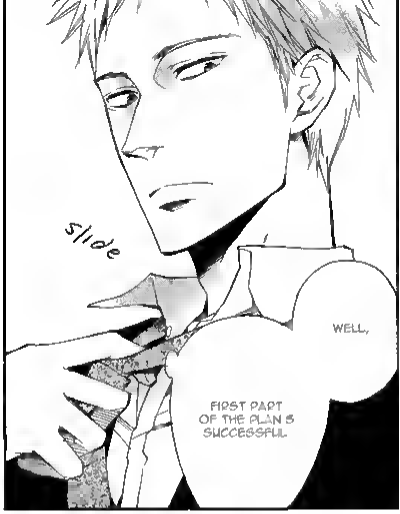
I SEE NOW THAT I'M ACTUALLY PAYING ATTENTION
HE DOES GET PICKED ON QUITE OFTEN DOESN'T HE?
I'm so sorry for the wait
Do you have any idea how LONG I've been waiting?!
I remember telling you these were urgent, so why are you only delivering them now?!
Well I've only just got them delivered to me myself
THUD
SO I'm asking you, why are you only delivering them just now?!
I'm sorry
RUSHES BY
I THINK HE'S REALLY STARTING TO GROW ON ME
beam
HI THERE KISHIMOTO-KUN
OH HELLO TOUGH DAY AT WORK WASN'T IT?
AH...
totter


COME TO THINK OF IT, MY FIRST CRUSH HAD ALSO BEEN A GUY
SO THIS GUY SHOULD WORK TOO
STARE
UM, ARE YOU SIZING ME UP OR SOMETHING?
LET ME SAY THIS FIRST, I CAN'T AFFORD ANYTHING TOO PRICEY


How do you get to say all these things and still live?
Oh?
Hmmmm
Why would the customer say that?
Oh, you don't have to worry about that. I really wasn't expecting something like that from you to begin with.



SWIPE
UGHHH!


Slide
WELL,
FIRST PART OF THE PLAN IS SUCCESSFUL

YOU REALLY OVERDID IT BACK THERE, DIDN'T YOU?
WHERE IS THIS?
MY PLACE

SO WHY AREN'T YOU UP AND READY?
C'mon, you
NOW THAT ALL THE CONDITIONS ARE SET
I SHOULD GET DOWN TO BUSINESS
UGH.. GOSH MAN.. I'M SO SORRY 'BOUT THIS

MAYBE IF I FORCE THE POINT A LITTLE..
Slump
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YANASE-SAN?

flushed
?
I TEND TO BECOME ATTRACTED TO PEOPLE WITH PITCH BLACK HAIR THAT'S PARTED IN THE MIDDLE MUCH LIKE YOURSELF
YANASE-SAN THERE'S SOMETHING YOU REALLY OUGHT TO KNOW
I'M FINE.
..JUST SLEEPY
wobble
wobble
Let's take this off...
...
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE GETTING IT
OK WHY?
WHAT'S THIS?
MY FIRST CRUSH WAS EXACTLY LIKE THAT
BUT THINGS DIDN'T EXACTLY TAKE OFF BETWEEN US AND I'M STILL REGRETTING IT UP UNTIL TODAY

I HAVE A BROTHER WHO'S THREE YEARS OLDER.
HE AND THAT FIRST CRUSH I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT HAD BEEN FRIENDS SINCE THEY WERE VERY LITTLE
THE THING WAS, HE HAD A THING FOR MY BROTHER
HE, MY BROTHER THAT IS, WAS POPULAR AND A GENUINELY NICE GUY
OF COURSE, IT DIDN'T HELP THAT I WAS YOUNG AND IMPETUOUS
WHY AM I TELLING HIM ALL THIS
WHEN I'VE NEVER EVEN SO MUCH AS MENTIONED IT TO ANYONE ELSE BEFORE?
HE'S ACTING ALL STRANGE
SHIT, DID I DRINK TOO MUCH?
. . .
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'M ON THE VERGE OF TEARS?
KISHIMOTO-KUN...

pat
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A TOUGH TIME FOR YOU.
SO LET'S FIND YOU SOMEONE WHO'D BE ABLE TO MAKE YOU FORGET ALL THAT PAIN
ALL RIGHT?
ruffle
ruffle
AND HERE I WAS STRONGLY HINTING THAT THAT "SOMEONE" COULD BE YOU.
...
YANASE-SAN, YOUR NAIVETE IS WORRYING ME
AND JUST LIKE THAT, I WAS MADE TO REALIZE THAT THE ACHE I'VE BEEN FEELING ALL THESE YEARS...
Think about it. What if everything I told you was all just a lie? To get into your pants? What are you going to do then?
SHIVER
HUH? AM I REALLY?!

WAS REALLY A DEEP WOUND, TH...THAT REFUSED TO HEAL
AND I SUPPOSE I'LL CONTINUE TO FEEL IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
CLIP
CLIP
HEY, KISHIMOTO-KUN! IS THIS FOR REAL?!
SSSHHHH

REALIZE WHAT?
I TOOK A LOOK INSIDE IT AND— SAH! HOW COULD I NOT HAVE REALIZED IT SOONER?
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT. THIS—I I FOUND IT ON YOUR SHELF
ARCHITECTURE TODAY
SPREAD
TOSHIMITSU OKOMISHI
WHAT IDOIT? ID DILL DOO EARLY DO BE MAKIN ALL DIS RACKEDT YOU KNOW?
LIH MORNING
QUITE THE MULTI-TASKER AREN'T YOU?
MY FAMILY HOME S LOOKING REAL SWANK NOW THANKS TO THIS GUY HERE DON'T TELL ME
TOO BAD HE IS

SO MY SUSPICIONS WERE RIGHT AFTER ALL.
BLUSH
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE REALLY IS SOME RESEMBLANCE
WHAT'S WITH ALL THAT REACTION?
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST TAKE THIS DEVELOPMENT AS A SIGN FROM GOD
IT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST THAT WE ENDED UP DOING NOTHING
IT WOULD'VE BEEN THE SHORTEST RELATIONSHIP IN MY LIFE
MY OLD WOUND HAS BARELY BEGUN TO SCAB OVER. I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW CLOSE I WAS TO GAINING ANOTHER ONE THIS SOON!
I WONDER IF IT'S SOME SORT OF DIVINE RETRIBUTION FOR ALL THE HALF-ASSED THINGS I'VE DONE
SWISH
Oh yeah, thanks for letting me stay over
And some times he even sticks around for dinner
He still visits from time to time you see.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DION'T FORGET ANYTHING?
Oh, yeah!
DO YOU HAVE ANY STOMACH MEDICINE TO SPARE?
I GUESS WE'RE LATER THAN USUAL, HUH?
IT'S NOT REALLY SURPRISING, IS IT?
UM.. ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING OK?
IT'S JUST LOW BLOOD PRESSURE. DON'T WORRY YOURSELF OVER IT.
CLICK
ABOUT WHAT YOU TOLD ME YESTERDAY
FREEZE
!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT AT ALL! I WON'T BREATHE A WORD ABOUT IT TO TOSHIMITSU-SAN!
I swear it!
THANK YOU! I'D APPRECIATE THAT.
Right, right! Let's move already.
LET'S GO DRINKING TOGETHER AGAIN SOME TIME!
I'D LOVE TO
GEEZ, DOESN'T THIS GUY KNOW WHEN TO STOP??

-ONE THAT I CAN CALL MY SECOND CHANCE AT LOVE WITHOUT QUALMS

I WANT TO HAVE A PROPER LOVE LIFE-

YIKES! BETTER NOT GO THERE
LEST I GET SERVED ANOTHER RETRIBUTION OF THE HEAVENLY SORT
IT'D BE GREAT IF HE OR SHE WERE TO END UP BEING THE PERSON LIVING THREE DOORS DOWN FROM ME AGAIN
Ow!
CLICK
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GIVE UP AND SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE PLAGUED BY THE VESTIGES OF THAT VERY FIRST AND LAST EXPERIENCE
Ooh, I see black hair

Creak
puff
?!

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME
NOBORU-KUN...?
HUHP

GASP!
APPARENTLY NOT
Eh? Who was that?
ダッ
シュー
vol 2 END

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定価560円 MAR.

応募者全員プレゼント

応募者全員サービス
表紙イラスト図書カード
「3軒隣の遠い人」

新連載 第2回
鈴木ツタ
十年後、光也は幼なじみを忘れられずに…!?

やまねもやの 青空雨子

図書カードセット表紙3枚組販売中♥

POSTER◆唯月一
POST CARD◆日高ショーコ

◆新連載第2回
不破慎理 [GRAVITY EYES]
前かすが [ドキ捕獲ケーカク!]
水名瀬雅良 [アンバランスな熱]

緒田涼歌 真みこと
西ノ村ケ 友麻碧小太郎
絲色れーいち
高口里純
やまかみ梨由

新連載
カラー「ダイヤモンドの条件」
キャラ文庫の人気シリーズ、待望のまんが化♥

神奈木智×須賀邦彦

BIMONTHLY COMIC MAGAZINE TOKUMA SHOTEN

# Sangen Tonari no Todi Hito

By Suzuki Tsuta

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Volume 1

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3軒隣の遠い人
vol.3

'DIVINE PUNISHMENT.'

I GUESS THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL IT THESE DAYS
I MEAN, WHAT ELSE CAN IT BE WHEN THE FIRST THING THE GUY YOU HAD A CRUSH ON DOES WHEN HE SEES YOU AGAIN AFTER TEN YEARS
...IS GASP, RUN ...NO HIDE, IN THAT ORDER?
?
SLAM

I COULD FEEL MY BRAIN HAVING A HARD TIME KEEPING UP WITH THIS REALITY..
..OR RATHER THIS WHOLE THING IS SO EERILY COINCIDENTAL, IT'S DOWNRIGHT INSANE
I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN IN THIS LIFE OR THE NEXT, EVEN
SO WHAT EXACTLY SHOULD I DO NOW?
KISHIMOTO
HEY ARE YOU LISTENING OR WHAT?!
WHACK
OH
I'M SORRY I WASN'T
That hurt
SHOW SOME SHAME MAN!

I FIGURED THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE I CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THIS MEETING
YOU KNOW WHAT? FINE, JUST SIT THERE AND DAYDREAM YOUR LIFE AWAY FOR ALL I CARE. :)
OH RIGHT.
SINCE EVERYONE HAVE ALREADY THOROUGHLY SUBMITTED THEIR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS OVER IT
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PROPOSED THIS DAMN THING! DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD AT ALL?!
LAST I CHECKED, YOU'RE PART OF THIS PROJECT TOO. A BIG PART OF IT, MIGHT I ADD
CHUCKLE
SOMETHING FEELS UNSETTLED WITHIN ME
SOMEBODY, ANYBODY, PLEASE TELL ME THAT WAS ALL JUST A FIGMENT OF MY OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION
So if no one else has any other questions...
Kahaha
Best of luck, you two!
SO WHO WAS THAT GUY WE SAW EARLIER THIS MORNING?
Hatsukashii

Ohhh...
THAT'S SOME COINCIDENCE!
I WAS JUST SURPRISED WE ENDED UP STAYING AT THE SAME PLACE
HE'S SOMEONE I KNOW FROM BACK WHERE I GREW UP
...
...
?
shiiin
WHY'D HE RUN OFF AND HIDE LIKE THAT?
Talk about weird
...
BUT WAIT
BUT SERIOUSLY YOU DON'T SEE THAT KIND OF COINCIDENCE HAPPENING EVERYDAY
WELL THE CHANCES OF THIS PARTICULAR ONE HAPPENING ISN'T AS LOW AS IT MIGHT SEEM
HUH? WHADAYA MEAN?
SIMPLY PUT THE NAME OF THE APARTMENT BLOCK I'M STAYING IN IS THE SAME AS MY ADDRESS BACK HOME
"SUZAKI CITY" AND "LA MAISON DE SUZAKI"

MAYBE HE THINKS YOU HEARD SOMETHING PERSONAL ABOUT HIM FROM HIS FOLKS BACK HOME,
AND IS AVOIDING YOU CUZ HE'S EMBARRASSED OR SOMETHING?
rustle
rustle
Chew
I MEAN LIVING IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY MAKE PEOPLE THE REST OF FRIENDS.
BUT, COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S NOT EXACTLY WEIRD EITHER
LA MAL..?
SO THAT MEANS BOTH OF YOU LIVED IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD, HUH?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
ALL I KNOW IS WHAT MY MOTHER TOLD ME
NO IDEA
ANY IDEA ON WHAT HE THINKS YOU MIGHT KNOW?
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU LAST SAW HIM ANYWAY?

WHEN I CAME HOME FROM THE GRADUATION CEREMONY
OH!
DID I TELL YOU?
NOBORU-CHAN MOVED AWAY THIS MORNING
I BELIEVE HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT WANTING TO TRY LIVING ON HIS OWN IN THE CITY
will he be all right?
HUH
THUMP
I DIDN'T SHOW IT, BUT IT HURT WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS
I THOUGHT EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED UP UNTIL THEN WAS WHAT I DESERVED
THINGS LIKE MY BROTHER LEAVING HOME... AND THEN THERE'S HIM, LEAVING ON HIS OWN AND LEAVING ME BEHIND
AND FOR A WHILE THERE I WAS DROWNING IN CONFUSION
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I FELT ANGERED BY ALL THE SUCCESSIVE AND SUDDEN LOSSES

BUT I HAVE TO SAY AT THE END OF THE DAY IT COULD BE VERY REASSURING
HUH?
DAMN HOW PAINFULLY YOUNG I WAS BACK THEN
REALLY IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN AND YOU NEED HELP, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO KNOW THAT THERE'S SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEARBY TO RELY ON?

I MEAN LIVING IN THE CITY ISN'T EASY YOU KNOW? AT TIMES IT CAN EVEN BE DOWNRIGHT SCARY
I KNOW! WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM ABOUT SOME OF THE SHOPS WE HAVE AROUND HERE?
I-I SUPPOSE..
I REALLY HAVE TO WONDER THOUGH
crumple
IF THINGS WILL TURN OUT AS SMOOTHLY AS HE SAID
WHAT WITH THE WAY HE REACTED JUST FROM SEEING MY FACE..

...IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS HE'S ALREADY RESOLVED TO KEEP ON AVOIDING ME.
SCUFF
SCUFF
SCUFF

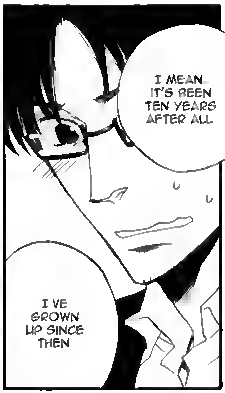
STIFFEN
...!

...
...

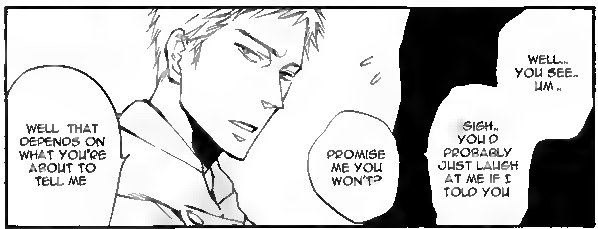
...
...
woosh
bang

...
HM..
TURN
GASP!
EH!
AH!
G-
GOOD EVENING!
...
THAT'S THE SECOND BLOODY TIME
..GOOD EVENING

I'M ONLY ASKING AS YOUR NEIGHBOR SO PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE SO LATE?


I MEAN IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS AFTER ALL
I'VE GROWN UP SINCE THEN

YOU KNOW
THERE'S REALLY NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE AFRAID ANYMORE


WELL... YOU SEE.. UM..
SIGH.. YOU'D PROBABLY JUST LAUGH AT ME IF I TOLD YOU
PROMISE ME YOU WON'T?
WELL THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO TELL ME

SHIT YOU REALLY ARE MITSUYA AREN'T YA?
YOU DIDN'T CHANGE ONE BIT!
OH REALLY?
SO THEN WHAT IS IT?
...!

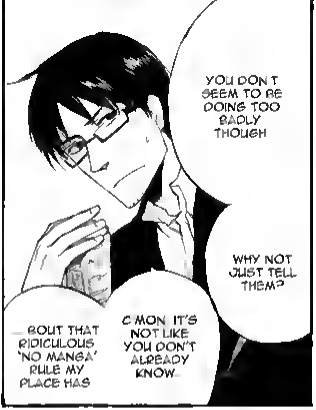
A GHOST!
I KNEW IT! YOU'RE LAUGHING AT ME AREN'T YA?!
YOU AFRAID OF 'EM?
WHAT KINDA QUESTION IS THAT?! WOULD I BE OUT HERE BRAVING THE COLD IF I WEREN'T?
TALKING TO YOU BRINGS BACK BAD MEMORIES SO I'LL JUST CALL IT A DAY
WHAT A FARCE.
LATER
YOU REALLY SURE YOU WANNA GO BACK IN?
HUH
NEVER WOULD'VE PAINTED YOU TO BE THE TYPE
...!
FINE IF YOU AREN'T GONNA HELP--!
WELL I AM A BELIEVER
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AND REMIND ME?
HM THIS IS INTERE-STING

...
YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED CHARACTER-WISE
SO DO YOU WANT ME HERE OR SHOULD I GO BACK IN?
D-DON'T GO
Hmm...
THE ARRANGE-MENT IN HERE IS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF MINE
HEY, IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT OVER THERE?
WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO CHECK?
LOOK AROUND THE WINDOW IN THE VERANDA AREA
SEE HOW THE CURTAINS ARE OPENED A LITTLE?
PEER THROUGH THAT GAP. WHEN I DID, I THOUGHT I SAW SOME-THING THAT RESEMBLED A WHITE DISEM-BODIED HAND OUT THERE...

ALARM
MITSUYA?
Silence
OH
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING NOSIN' 'ROUND OTHER PEOPLE'S THINGS?!
AARRRGH!
You into drawing 4-panel comics these days?
STOP TOUCHING MY THINGS! DON'T LOOK AT THEM EITHER!
rushes in
HERE
THE SUM OF ALL YOUR FEARS

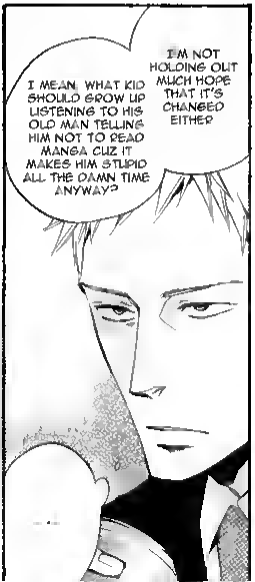
SORRY ABOUT THAT
PSSSH
DRINK UP IT'S ON ME
BOTH THE GHOST THING AND THE COMIC THING!
WHICH DO YOU MEAN?
Sigh
POP
AND PLEASE FORGET WHAT HAPPENED
WELL, I SUPPOSE.. BUT ONLY IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT
I TOLD MY PARENTS THAT I'M A WRITER
NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE TRUTH, ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THEM?

WASN'T THAT ONLY DURING BACK WHEN YOU WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL OR SOMETHING?
Don't say a word about this to anyone, I'm warn'!
I hear'!
NO, IT WAS A GROUND RULE!


YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE DOING TOO BADLY THOUGH
WHY NOT JUST TELL THEM?
C'MON, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU DON'T ALREADY KNOW...
...BOUT THAT RIDICULOUS 'NO MANGA' RULE MY PLACE HAS

...REALLY THE NOBORU I KNOW?
IS THIS PERSON...
Eggheads, all o' 'em, I tell ya!

DIDN'T YOU USE TO BE A STRAIGHT-LACED HONOR STUDENT?
WELL... YEAH, I SUPPOSE I WAS
CAN A PERSON'S CHARACTER CHANGE THIS MUCH?


I'M NOT HOLDING OUT MUCH HOPE THAT IT'S CHANGED EITHER
I MEAN, WHAT KID SHOULD GROW UP LISTENING TO HIS OLD MAN TELLING HIM NOT TO READ MANGA CUZ IT MAKES HIM STUPID ALL THE DAMN TIME ANYWAY?

BUT THAT'S ONLY CUZ I WANTED TO PUT UP A GOOD FRONT FOR MY FOLKS
AND I SUPPOSE TOSHIMITSU'S INFLUENCE RUBBED OFF ON ME DURING ALL THOSE TIMES I USED TO HANG OUT WITH HIM
Stiffen
hurry
I MEAN WHAT WITH HIM BEING A NATURAL HIGH ACHIEVER AND ALL IT'S KINDA HARD NOT TO, YA KNOW?
THAT CAME AS A BIT OF A SHOCK
YEAH
I COMPLETELY DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO BE ABLE TO SO CASUALLY LET HIS NAME ROLL OFF HIS TONGUE LIKE THAT
HE SURE WAS A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW ESPECIALLY FOR ME

Haha!
OH, YEAH THAT'S RIGHT
OUT OF EVERYONE, YOU HAD THE TOUGHEST TIME DIDN'T YOU?
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO HEAR HIM LAUGH LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF ME EVER AGAIN
...!
AGAIN THAT'S TWICE I'M SHOCKED NOW
SO TELL ME 'BOUT YOURSELF
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
I'M JUST A REGULAR OFFICE GRUNT
Uhm...if you'll excuse me, you're extremely drunk!
OH GOD, WHAT DO I DO?
rip

I'M BEING OVERWHELMED BY ALL THESE WEIRD FEELINGS
WHA...
WHAT IS THIS?

HEY, AREN'T THESE SPELLS OF YOURS HAPPENING MORE AND MORE OFTEN LATELY?
YOU TOTALLY DIDN'T HEAR A WORD I'VE JUST SAID, DID YOU?
SORRY ABOUT THAT
I SPENT LAST NIGHT GHOST-BUSTING, YOU SEE.
I'LL CONCENTRATE ON WORK FROM NOW ON
HEY, WAI—!
O-DETAILS! E-EMME!
That sounds exactly like the kind of puzzle I'm interested in!
NOT REALLY
SINCE THERE WEREN'T ANY REAL GHOSTS INVOLVED
TCH!
OH
SENPAI?
WHAT?
IS LOVE.

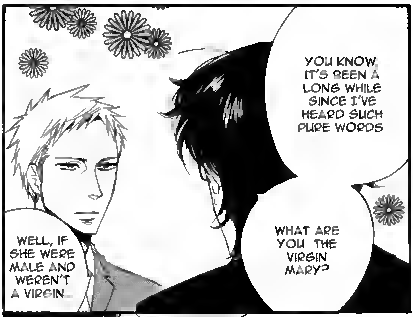
Come, come. You can confide in me about anything!
SOOO... WHAT'S THIS ABOUT LOVE I'M HEARING? I WOULD'VE NEVER EXPECTED TO HEAR SUCH A WORD COMING FROM AN IRON-FACED STOIC JOE LIKE YOU!
SO WHO IS IT? WHICH DEPARTMENT IS SHE FROM?
UM. I THINK YOU'VE GOT THIS ALL WRONG
YOU KNOW WHAT? NEVER MIND
NO!
YOU'RE NOT STOPPING THERE! I WON'T LET YOU SPILL NOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR BRAINS TO DO THE SPILLIN'!
"LOVE"? DO I JUST HEAR THAT?

WAIT. ARE WE TALKING PHILOSOPHY HERE? WHAT THE--? THAT'S IT?!
WHAT I WANTED TO ASK WAS, WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS THING CALLED LOVE?

THAT PROBABLY ISN'T TOO FAR FROM THE TRUTH.
?
IT'S A VAST SUBJECT SO I'M NOT TOO SURE WHAT EXACTLY IS IT THAT YOU'RE ASKING.
BUT ISN'T THAT SOMETHING ONLY A LITTLE KID WOULD ASK?
Well--it's more like I don't follow...

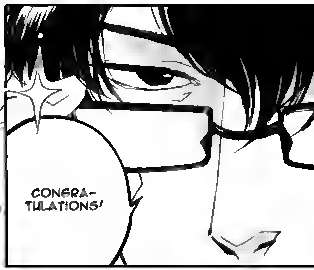
I'VE NEVER REALLY EXPERIENCED IT BEFORE. I DON'T THINK
ALL THIS TIME I'VE ONLY DATED OUT OF CONVE-NIENCE
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN THE OTHER PARTY SEEMED TO REALLY LIKE ME, AND THAT'S ALL GOOD, BUT WELL, YOU KNOW...
juvenileshake
SO BASICALLY WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME IS YOU'RE STILL STUCK IN THE VERY FIRST STAGE OF ADOLESCENCE ALL THIS TIME
NOW WE'RE GETTING SOME-WHERE SO? WHAT EXACTLY IS YOUR QUESTION?
I'm not sure whether or not I should be asking you what.
WHEN YOU LIKE SOMEONE,
DO YOUR WORDS GET STUCK IN YOUR THROAT,
AND THAT OTHER PERSON'S FACE STARTS TO SLIP BEFORE YOU?
DO ALL YOUR SENSES BECOME LOST LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HIT YOU AND YOUR FACE TURNS BEET RED,

AND YOU START FORGETTING HOW EXACTLY TO BREATHE?


YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN A LONG WHILE SINCE I'VE HEARD SUCH PURE WORDS
WHAT ARE YOU, THE VIRGIN MARY?
WELL, IF SHE WERE MALE AND WEREN'T A VIRGIN...

...

IN FACT, IT'S SO PURE I'VE COMPLETELY LOST MY WILL TO MAKE FUN OF YOU
WHAT YOU'RE EXPERIENCING IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, LOVE. ONE THAT'S OF THE PUREST KIND. TO BOOT.
rustle


CONGRATULATIONS!

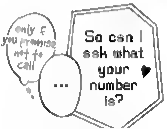
I SAY JUST LET IT ALL GO OUT WITH A NICE BIG BANG
Now then, let us return to work, shall we?
SO ACCORDING TO THE EXPERT(?)
ding dong
He's wearing contacts
"FIRST LOVES ARE THINGS THAT AREN'T MEANT TO COME TRUE."
WANT SOME CURRY?
You seem to have quite a bit of time on your hands, don't you?
BUT...
Heya! Wanna play against me?
HE'S PROBABLY DOING IT ON THE BASIS OF OUR BEING NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS FROM CHILDHOOD
TIME AND AGAIN NOBORU MADE HOUSE CALLS
Want some apples?
THERE WERE CERTAIN SUBJECTS FROM THE PAST WE'VE SHARED THAT HE'D CAREFULLY AVOID
AND SO WE BOTH ENDED UP NOT BRINGING THEM UP AT ALL.

IS HE PLANNING TO JUST LET EVERYTHING SLIDE?
He looks completely different without glasses
SHOULD I DO THE SAME? IF I WANT TO KEEP THE UNCOMFORTABLE PAST COMFORTABLY VAGUE AND BEHIND US IT'S BEST I KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT
Wearing contacts again
Mind Chatting a little?
IF I JUST LET THINGS PROGRESS THE WAY THEY ARE NOW WILL ALL THE NIGHTMARES STOP AS WELL?

EVEN IF, DESPITE EVERYTHING, I STILL DESPERATELY TRY TO RECALL HOW THOSE LIPS HAD FELT PRESSED AGAINST MINE?

Do I need a reason to call?
And besides you haven't called home once since you moved
Beep
YEAH WHAT IS IT, MOM?
WHY D YOU SUDDENLY CALL?
Buzz
Buzz
Buzz
YOU D NEVER GUESS WHO--
OH, RIGHT
Ah, hold on a second would you?
Your brother wants to speak to you
WELL, THERE WASN'T ANY REASON FOR ME TO
I'M DOING JUST FINE
You just don't get it do you?

AS THINGS STAND, WE'RE CAUGHT IN A STALEMATE



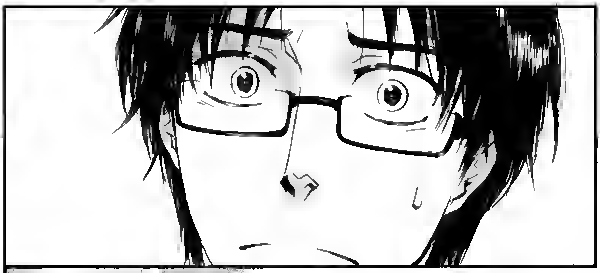
BEEP
IT'S A LITTLE SHOCKING IF I HAVE TO SAY SO MYSELF
BUT THEN AGAIN
THAT'S RIGHT
I SEE IT NOW
NIICHAN ISN'T HERE THIS TIME AROUND
UNLIKE BEFORE I CAN NOW INTERACT WITH NOBORU ON AN EVEN GROUND
AND THIS TIME...
SNAP

...I'M THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS AROUND HIM.

THIS MANGA IS FREE AT MANGA-COOKIE.SITE - IF YOU BOUGHT IT, YOU'VE BEEN SCAMMED!
JOIN OUR DISCORD TO GET ACCESS TO MORE MANGA AND NOVELS!

NOBORU
DON'T YOU HATE ME AT ALL?
EH?
UH... WELL... WHAT'S PASSED HAS PASSED, RIGHT?
Hehe!
LET BYGONES BE BYGONES. WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE AND ALL THAT. WHY DWELL ON IT?
EVEN SO I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN AT ALL.
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, HAVE YOU?
WHAT I DID TO YOU
EVEN NOW AS I'M TALKING ABOUT IT...
Huh?
YOU...
...YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE EVER FALLEN IN LOVE WITH

MY HEART'S THREATENING TO POUND OUT OF MY RIBCAGE.
AND THERE ISN'T A THING I CAN DO ABOUT IT..



IT SEEMS EVEN THOUGH I'M AN ADULT NOW, SOME THINGS WITHIN ME REMAINED THE SAME
AND FOR THAT, LET ME JUST SAY I'M SORRY.

# Sangen Tonari no Todi Hito

By Suzuki Tsuta

Chapter 3
Volume 1

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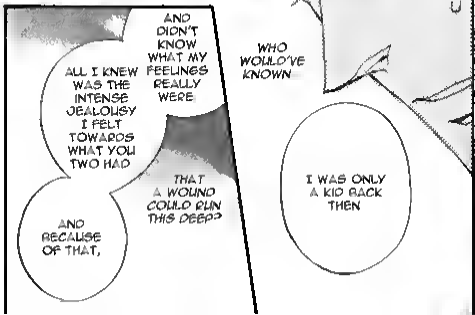
3軒隣の遠い人
vol.4

MY HEART'S THREATENING TO POUND OUT OF MY RIBCAGE

AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT

I'M SCARED


AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT MY FEELINGS REALLY WERE
ALL I KNEW WAS THE INTENSE JEALOUSY I FELT TOWARDS WHAT YOU TWO HAD
AND BECAUSE OF THAT,
THAT A WOUND COULD RUN THIS DEEP?
WHO WOULD'VE KNOWN
I WAS ONLY A KID BACK THEN

I THOUGHT I NEEDED TO FORCIBLY ESTABLISH SOMETHING WITH YOU...
SOMETHING WITHIN MY CHEST HURTS
...IF I EVER WANTED TO HAVE THE SAME THING HE HAD WITH YOU
I WANTED YOU TO SEE ME
NOT AS TOSHIMITSU KISHIMOTO'S KID BROTHER BUT ME...
wipe
...
YOU KNOW,
ALL THIS... IT REALLY FEELS UNREAL TO ME

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE ME MUCH AT ALL, END OF STORY
HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS
I COULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE THAT YOU COULD'VE FELT ANYTHING BUT THAT
YOU WEREN'T EXACTLY THE EASIEST PERSON TO READ. YOU KNOW I ALWAYS THOUGHT I ANNOYED YOU
NOBORU...
CAN I ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR?
DON'T CHICKEN OUT NOW
YOU ONLY NEED TO SAY THIS ONCE
NERVOUS

JUST LET IT END ONCE AND FOR ALL.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT YOU'LL SEE
THE WORD "FIRST" IN "FIRST LOVE" IS THERE FOR A REASON, AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT IS NOW.
THIS WAY, I CAN FINALLY MOVE ON
I'LL CONFESS IT LOUD AND CLEAR
AND I'D LIKE YOU TO TURN ME DOWN FOR REAL.
WHA... YOU MEAN RIGHT NOW?
YES. RIGHT NOW.
Yes.
RIGHT HERE?
RIGHT HERE!
EEH?!
...

..
inhale
N-NO-BORU
THE THE THING IS...I-I UH..
!
o
AH
I THINK I LOVE YOU

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT HE IS FOR REAL.
HE REALLY DOES HARBOR SUCH FEELINGS FOR ME
UM
I CAN SEE THE PAIN WRITTEN ALL OVER HIS FACE
DON'T TELL ME HE'S BEEN LIVING WITH IT ALL THESE YEARS
BUT SEEING HIM LIKE THIS...
I'M SORRY I GUESS?
AS OPPOSED TO THAT ALOOF EXPRESSION HE'S ALWAYS HAD ON
...!

Presenting:
A classic example of a man thoroughly rejected.

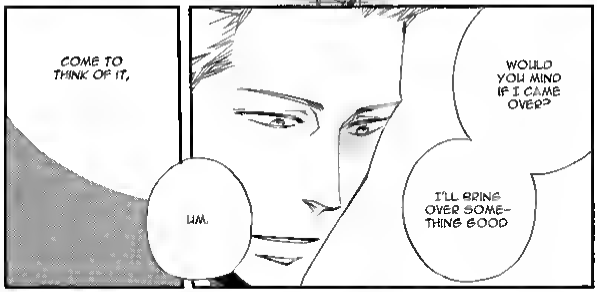
WHAT ON EARTH'S WRONG WITH YOU?
DID YOU GET POSSESSED BY THAT EVIL SPIRIT YOU TRIED TO RUST OR SOMETHING?
SMACK
EVEN WHEN I GET YELLED AT, I FEEL...
UGH
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN POSSESSED.

YOU PLANNING TO KEEP THIS UP ALL THROUGH LUNCH?
NO... I DON'T
NOBORU DID ASK ME AGAIN BUT I DECLINED AND HE WENT HOME
WE ENDED UP NOT GOING OUT FOR YAKINIKU AFTERWARD
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
Straighten
refreshed
THE HAIRCUT SUITS YOU MAKES YOU LOOK SOMEWHAT HA...WHAT IS IT...AH... REFRESHED
THAT'S BECAUSE I'VE MANAGED TO RID MYSELF OF THE PROBLEM THAT'S BEEN DOGGING ME FOR YEARS
HEY,

...
rattle
NOT TELLING
PROBLEM? OOH SOUNDS JUICY
HM?
OH. AND I'VE BEEN THINKING SEMPAI..
YES
OFF TO HANG OUT WITH THE JINX AGAIN?
I'M GOING TO LUNCH
?
HUH?
BUT MORE ONE OF LIFE-CHANGING EVENTS
...I DON'T THINK HE'S SO MUCH THE HARBINGER OF BAD LUCK MOST OF YOU HAVE BEEN MAKING HIM OUT TO BE,

RUSTLE
"LIFE CHANGING EVENTS"? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
IT IS WHAT IT IS. YOU CAN ALSO THINK OF IT AS "BIG CHANCES."
HUH?!
WHA..
WHAT'S ALL THIS FOR?
ITTZ
Wow
OH
I WASN'T REALLY THINKING WHEN I BOUGHT THEM.
UM... I DON'T REALLY GET IT. BUT ALL RIGHT THANKS I THINK.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
THEY SERVE SOME PRETTY GOOD LUNCHBOXES HERE. SO EAT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
UM...
UM, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S A BELIEVER THING.
Thanks for lunch?!
JUST THINK OF IT AS A THANK YOU GESTURE FROM ME.
EH?

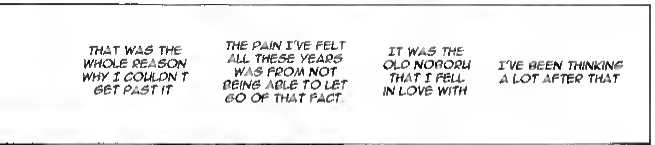
OH YEAH. ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING THIS SUNDAY?
EH? OH...
rustle
NO.
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT THEN
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE UP TO YOUR NOSE IN DATES AGAIN


WOULD YOU MIND IF I CAME OVER?
I'LL BRING OVER SOMETHING GOOD
UM.
COME TO THINK OF IT,

WAIT JUST A MINUTE
You in the mood for hot pot tonight?
RECENTLY, I'VE ONLY BEEN HANGING OUT WITH NOBODY AND BLOWING EVERYONE ELSE OFF

TWINGE
EH?
DOES THAT MEAN WE DON'T GET TO DO THAT ANYMORE?

I SHOULDN'T BE TROUBLED BY IT ANY LONGER
THE OLD WOUND IS GONE


THAT WAS THE WHOLE REASON WHY I COULDN'T GET PAST IT
THE PAIN I'VE FELT ALL THESE YEARS WAS FROM NOT BEING ABLE TO LET GO OF THAT FACT
IT WAS THE OLD NOBORU THAT I FELL IN LOVE WITH
I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT AFTER THAT

AND ANYWAY, ALL THAT...

..SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE "NOBORU" NOW
UNLESS..
TWINGE
BACK THEN.
..KUN?
IT WAS ONLY PUPPY LOVE WASN'T IT?
KISHIMOTO-KUN?

WHAT'S WRONG? AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT?
AH.. NO THAT'S NOT IT
I WAS JUST THINKING IS ALL.
MUST BE TOUGH BEING IN SALES
YOU KNOW, IF YOU EVER NEED ANY HELP, JUST ASK ME. ALL RIGHT?
...
NO, NO, NO.. I'M OVER-THINKING IT
ALL WE DID WAS HANG OUT. THAT WAS IT

I GUESS I WORRY TOO MUCH
THAT'S IT
DEAR HEART OF MINE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ALL THESE YEARS
Whoa... are you saying your prayers or something?
Coming from you, it's gross!
LET THERE BE NO MORE WORRIES AND NO MORE PAIN
I'LL JUST FIND ME SOME FUN GAL I CAN CLICK WITH
tap tap
KISHIMOTO!
T/N: GOUKON - A MIXER. NOT THE MACHINE & GIRLS+BOYS GET TOGETHER
YOU KNOW THAT GOUKON THAT'S HAPPENING THIS SUNDAY? SEEMS THAT THERE'S ONE HOPEFUL CANDIDATE WHO PULLED OUT SO NOW THERE'S A VACANT SLOT I'D ASK IF YOU'D BE INTERESTED... BUT
COUNT ME IN
Huh?
T/N: HERE'S YOUR ANSWER. MITCHAN_OFFICIAL = OFFLINE GALS_OFFLINE MEET = INTERNET GEEKS ANONYMOUS
Are you seriously going to go?
Hehe. I have an ecchi to attend.
To be honest, I'm shocked.
Aren't you going too?
What's an ecchi?

CHEEERS!
WHY ON EARTH DID I THINK IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO COME?
Would any of you lovely ladies care for some dessert?
BORED TO DEATH
ONE OF THE GIRLS IS EXACTLY MY TYPE
BEFORE THIS I WOULD'VE DEFINITELY GONE FOR HER
BUT THIS TIME AROUND I DON'T FEEL EVEN THE SLIGHTEST URGE
I CAN'T EVEN MUSTER UP THE SMALLEST EFFORT TO PRETEND I'M ENJOYING MYSELF.
AND I USED TO ACTUALLY LIKE THESE SORT THINGS TOO

FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE SAME PERSON TWICE WHO WOULD'VE THUNK? GUESS THERE'S JUST NO HELP FOR ME ANYMORE

Phew
Shake
I'M BEAT
rustle
ding dong
WHO'S CALLING SO LATE?
!
Did you come just to drink yourself stupid?
Thanks to your clumsy antics, none of us scored tonight.
You sure you're with Sakura-Mitsu?
HEH, SORRY 'BOUT THAT, I GUESS
EVERYONE WAS STARING ACCUSINGLY AT ME
ding dong
ding dong
ding dong
MAYBE IT'S YANASE-SAN NO WAIT TODAY
IS STILL ONLY SATURDAY

CLICK
WHOA!
IF I HONESTLY PUT IT INTO WORDS...
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT
DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME?
H-HEY
UM...

AND..
AT FIRST, I BL..MED IT ALL ON HYPERSENSITIVITY CAUSED BY STRESS DUE TO THE SUDDEN SHIFT IN ENVIRONMENT. BUT THE TRUTH IS, I'M WORN DOWN ALMOST TO THE POINT WHERE THERE'S ALMOST NOTHING LEFT OF ME.
HAS LIVING ALWAYS BEEN THIS TIRING? I JUST DON'T KNOW NYMORE
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I LAST SLEPT PROPERLY
THE SUDDEN REAPPEARANCE OF NOBORU HAS ALL AT ONCE TURNED THE SMOLDERING ASHES OF MY BROKEN HEART THAT HAVE COLLECTED OVER THE YEARS INTO SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.
HUH?
DAZED
SYOSEA
WHAT'S WRONG?!
W-WHA..!
WHO DARED TO BULLY YOU?!

I HONESTLY THOUGHT THAT THIS BIG BROTHER BUSINESS WASN'T BAD AT ALL.
It's all right I'm on your side, okay? So don't cry anymore, okay?
THERE THERE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ?
AND I DON'T EVEN THINK I WANT TO CARE ANYMORE

THAT I COULD LIVE WITH JUST THIS
SO I THOUGHT I COULD GET USED TO IT.
IT WAS SOMETHING UNIQUE TO US

BUT JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D COME TO TERMS WITH EVERYTHING, I'M THROWN HELTER-SKELTER AGAIN BY HIS NEXT WORDS
SO I WAS THINKING,
WANNA GIVE THIS DATING THING A TRY?
YOU AND ME. I MEAN

HELLOOO? ANYBODY HOME?
You listenin or what?
AFTER LISTENING TO YOUR CONFESSION,
MY THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS JUST KINDA GOT DRAGGED ALONG
YOU REALLY BOWLED ME OVER BACK THERE
YOU KNOW?
I'VE NEVER FELT THAT WAY NOT EVEN WHEN I HAD GIRLS SAY THE SAME THINGS TO ME
I KNOW I KNOW IT'S WEIRD, ISN'T IT?
BUT I NEVER HAD THE GUTS TO JUST SWITCH TO GUYS
UH...
AM I DRE...MING?
ALSO, I DESERVE TO AT LEAST GET A TASTE DON'T I?
SO I GUESS WHAT I'M SAYING IS, YOU'D BETTER TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY

C'MON THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT KINDA FACE YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL ALL BAD, YOU KNOW?
I MEAN, SINCE I OBVIOUSLY HAVEN'T FELT OR THOUGHT ABOUT IT AS DEEPLY AS YOU DID.
!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT SEX, YOU SEE.
JUST THINK OF IT AS TWO GUYS HAVING NOTHING TO LOSE
I'm a man, after all!
SEEING YOU ALL WEAK AND ABOUT TO CAVE IN REALLY DID THINGS TO ME, YOU KNOW? I'M NOT AFRAID ANY LONGER
I HAVE TO BE
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK? WANNA GO OUT WITH ME?
YEA..
YEAH..
kiss
THERE'S NO WAY... SOMETHING THIS GOOD COULD BE TRUE
Mm
AND YET, AT THE SAME TIME, IT FEELS LIKE ITS VERY CORE IS BURNING
MY BODY FEELS LIGHT..
Mhm

IT WASN'T MY FIRST KISS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT BUT SOMEHOW, IT FELT LIKE IT WAS.
WHOA!
LOOK AT ME ALL HOT AND BOTHERED AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN DONE ANYTHING YET BUT KISS
wipe
WHAT BOUT YOU?
YEAH
blush
YOU OKAY?
THINK YOU CAN HANDLE WHAT'S COMING?
Y-
YEAH..
MY FEELINGS ARE A MIXTURE OF GUILT, NERVOUSNESS
I SUPPOSE OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO GET NAKED
AND SINFUL ANTICIPATION
SO, SHALL WE MOVE TO THE BED?

WHO EXACTLY IS THIS PERSON IN FRONT OF ME?
RUSTLE

HOW IS HE ABLE TO SO CASUALLY BRUSH ASIDE..
flinch
THE IMAGE I HAD OF YOU IN MY HEAD..
..HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE MIDDLE SCHOOLER.
throb
..WHAT I DID TO HIM ALL THOSE YEARS AGO?
TUG
SEEING YOU ALL GROWN UP LIKE THIS,
IT'S JUST SO WEIRD, YOU KNOW?

SO MANY THINGS MUST—
throb
throb
I CAN'T TELL IF THIS THROBBING IN MY CHEST...
I'M SORRY IF...
...I DIDN'T TURN OUT THE WAY YOU EXPECTED
NO. DON'T...
...IS FROM PAIN OR SOMETHING ELSE ALTOGETHER
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT

Creak
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH IT HURTS
!
STOP JOKING AROUND
I'M NOT
mph
I'M NOT
Q-QUITE THE OPPOSITE ACTUALLY!
Shiver
Shiver
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS OKAY? AREN'T YOU AFRAID?
I LOVE YOU EVEN THE WAY YOU ARE NOW

JUST RELAX
Ah!
slide
SLIVER
Uh
Shrink
Ah!
Wai-
EVER SINCE THEN I ALWAYS THOUGHT...
...IF I EVER GOT A SECOND CHANCE I'D MAKE DAMN SURE TO BE GENTLE THIS TIME
WHA-!
I COULD GO DOWN ON YOU IF YOU WANT
Y-Y-YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT!
GAWD, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST SAID THAT OUT LOUD!
Shrink
tremble
OKAY
SO DON'T WORRY I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU FEEL...
...SO GOOD
Ah
Aah!
tremble

WELL IF I M EVER GOING TO GET BETTER AT IT IN THE FUTURE I M GOING TO NEED PRACTICE WON T I?
SAYING ALL THESE THINGS WITH THAT STRAIGHT FACE OF YOURS SERIOUSLY HOW DO YOU DO IT?
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY
CAN T YOU THINK OF MORE CONSTRUCTIVE THINGS DURING SEX?
HON-SHIZUC-SHI?
PULL

TO BE HONEST EVEN IF YOU WERE TO HAVE REJECTED ME EARLIER
I'D HAVE PLAYED ON YOUR WEAKNESS TO GET YOU TO DO THIS ANYWAY
BUUUUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT
TO PUT IT IN A WAY YOU'D UNDERSTAND, I ACTUALLY WASHED MYSELF THOROUGHLY YOU KNOW - THERE BEFORE COMING OVER
!
SO LET S JUST SKIP ALL THAT OTHER BULLSHIT AND GET RIGHT DOWN TO THE GOOD PART
I'M TALKING ABOUT SEX HERE. THERE, DO YOU GET IT NOW?
SWEEEE

WE'RE LOVERS NOW. ALL RIGHT? L-O-V-E-R-S
Ah—!
squelch
YOU SAID YOU WASHED YOURSELF THERE? DID YOU USE YOUR FINGERS?
YOU SEEM LOOSENED UP SOMEHOW
Ah
Just— put it in already, will ya?!
squelch
Can't believe he just said that
GAH
tremble
tremble
plunge
Ah!
Wha
Hurts!
—!
Ungh
IT'S GOING IN—
SQUEEZE

creak
creak
creak
SORRY ABOUT THAT
C-COULDN'T HELP MYSELF
FEELS GOOD TO BE INSIDE
Ah-
Ah-!
M-MITSUYA
YOU REALLY TURN ME ON. YOU KNOW THAT?
EH..
W-WHAT ARE YOU..
BLOMP
Ah!
HUH?
DIDN'T I USED TO REALLY LIKE HEARING HIM SAY THESE THINGS TO ME? HEARING HIM SAY THEM NOW

I GUESS NOTHING'S CHANGED AT ALL.
OH
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR
ding dong
ding dong
YEAH SO GO GET IT I MEAN, THIS IS YOUR PLACE
I totally forgot how good he is at being an idol geek.
OH YEAH TODAY'S SUNDAY ISN'T IT? I REMEMBER NOW I'M HAVING A CO-WORKER OVER
WHAT?! YOU SHOULD'VE SAID EARLIER!
SHING
Get up already!
HERE'S THAT SOMETHING GOOD I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT!
Ta-da!

SUPE LOOKS LIKE I'M DOING A BETTER JOB THAN YOU, DOESN'T IT?
...!
EH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
Gaaa

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海の上でみる夢

NAGISA INN & RESTAURANT
I'VE HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT THIS INN PLUS PLACES LIKE THESE WORK WONDERS FOR AUTHORS LIKE ME.
IN OTHER WORDS I'M HERE IN THE HOPES OF CURING MY LATEST BOUT OF WRITER'S BLOCK.
HERE I AM, MILES AWAY FROM THE CITY AT AN INN OVERLOOKING THE BEAUTIFUL AND VAST OCEAN.
WELCOME YOU MUST BE NAGUMO-SAN
PLEASE EXCUSE THE WAIT
exhau-
-sted
AH R-RIGHT. SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE
HUH
THE INN LOOKS AS IF IT'S MADE UP OF EXTENSIONS THAT WERE ADDED ONE AFTER ANOTHER AS AFTER-THOUGHTS.
AND WHILE IT DOESN'T COME WITH HOT SPRINGS OR OTHER SUCH FACILITIES FOR GUESTS TO INDULGE IN,
MY RETREAT HERE WILL LAST FOR ONE WEEK.

THE VIEW FROM THE ROOM MORE THAN MAKES UP FOR THE LACK.
THIS IS THE EXACT REASON FOR WHICH I CAME.
Whoa—
THIS VIEW..
..IS ARSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE!
OUR INN DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TO OFFER
SO I AM GLAD IT IS TO YOUR LIKING
Would you care for some tea?
VERY WELL.
I'll have some sake for starters.
AND TO DRINK?
DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT SIX. WOULD THAT BE ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?
OH, THAT'S PERFECTLY FINE
understanding grin
sheepish grin

T/N: THE LOCALE DEPICTED IN THIS MANGA ARE ACTUALLY NAMED AFTER ONE OF THE MANY YUKIOUSE DELICACIES

DID I FALL ASLEEP?
DAMN I GOT CARRIED AWAY WITH THE DRINKING
Where are my glasses?
I came here to write, dammit!

Huh?
WHEN I COME TO IT IS ALREADY NIGHT

AH, SCREW IT
THEY SAY INSPIRATION CAN STRIKE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE I'LL JUST ENJOY THE VIEW OF THE SEA AT NIGHT AND SEE IF ANY DOES
HUH?
slide

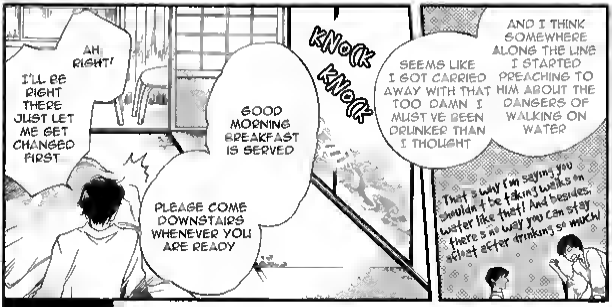
WAIT. IT'S WALKING?
WHAT? IT'S HUMAN?!
=O THEN WHAT IS IT?
WHICHEVER WAY YOU LOOK AT IT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A GUY

EVENING.

UH... R-RIGHT. GOOD EVENING.
PRETTY AMAZING, WHAT YOU'RE DOING THERE.
DOES EVERY-ONE AROUND HERE HAVE A HABIT OF TAKING NIGHT-TIME STROLLS ON THE WATER?
DUNNO. YOU'RE THE FIRST LIVING BEING I'VE EVER COME ACROSS.
Noooo! IT'S RUINED!

Stroll
merry stroll
IF THE MURDERER WERE TO ESCAPE BY MERRILY STROLLING WAY ON TOP OF THE WATER, THEN THE WHOLE STORY BECOMES JUST ANOTHER PIECE OF SCI-FI JUNK! MY ENTIRE PLOT IS LOST, GONE OUT THE WINDOW, LITERALLY!
THE ROOM'S ONLY WINDOW FACING THE SEA, NO FOOTHOLD OUTSIDE - THAT'S THE MYSTERY, DAMMIT! THE CONDITIONS ARE PERFECT! YOU CAN'T GET A MORE IDEAL SETTING!
DAMMIT, NOW THE SECRET ROOM INGLE WON'T WORK ANYMORE!
WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT ON ALL COUNTS
BUT I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME THE LAST...
UM, ARE YOU A WRITER MISTER?
OR IS THIS A HOBBY OF YOURS? IF IT IS, I MUST SAY IT'S RATHER UNIQUE

scratch scratch
THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A STRANGE DREAM
BUT MAN THAT KID SURE DIDN'T PULL ANY PUNCHES WITH HIS QUESTIONS I THINK HE GOT ENOUGH OUT OF ME TO START HIS OWN WRITING CAREER


AH, RIGHT!
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE JUST LET ME GET CHANGED FIRST
KNOCK KNOCK
GOOD MORNING BREAKFAST IS SERVED
PLEASE COME DOWNSTAIRS WHENEVER YOU ARE READY
SEEMS LIKE I GOT CARRIED AWAY WITH THAT TOO DAMN I MUST'VE BEEN DRUNKER THAN I THOUGHT
AND I THINK SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE I STARTED PREACHING TO HIM ABOUT THE DANGERS OF WALKING ON WATER
That's why I'm sayin', you shouldn't be takin' walks on water like that! And besides, there's no way you can stay sober after drinkin' so much!

Man, I haven't had food this good in ages.
A BREAKFAST THAT'S MADE UP OF SEVERAL DISHES..
...SURE MAKES A MAN FEEL GLAD TO BE ALIVE
HERE'S YOUR TEA

I'LL BE BRINGING YOU YOUR COFFEE SHORTLY
SLIP
Slide
IT'S THE BOY FROM MY DREAM
UH
THANKS FOR YESTERDAY UH..
P
IGNORE
Uhh That sounded strange even to me

OH WELL. WHATEVER
TONIGHT.
HE'S COME TO VISIT AGAIN
HI. HOW WAS YOUR EVENING?
IT WAS GOOD
NEEDLESS TO SAY, THERE'S NOTHING BENEATH HIM BUT WATER THIS TIME EITHER.

I WAS KIND OF WAITING FOR YOU AND SINCE I HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING TO DRINK EARLIER
I CAN NOW BE SURE THAT THIS ISN'T A DREAM
WELL, ENOUGH OF THAT. CARE FOR SOME TEA?
SURE I'D LOVE SOME
SAY,
ARE YOU THE OWNER'S SON?
Ooh
Ahh
THAT I AM.
OH, SO IT WAS YOU I SAW THIS MORNING
NO, IT WASN'T

YES, QUITE.
YOU KNOW THIS MIGHT SOUND STRANGE BUT ARE YOU SLIPE?
HUH? I DON'T QUITE GET IT
LOOKING CLOSER YOU DO HAVE A DIFFERENT AIR ABOUT YOU
THE KID THIS MORNING WASN'T THIS CHEERFUL.
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY. THERE'S MISCHIEF BEHIND EVERY SMILING FACE.
MINE JUST HAPPENS TO BE THIS.

I'LL COME AGAIN
THANK YOU FOR THE TEA AND GOOD NIGHT
OH AND ALSO ALL THE REST IN YOUR WORK NAGUMO-SAN
clunk
Smile

HUH? AGAIN?
IT'S NOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME HOW WOULD I KNOW?!

NOTHING TO DO WITH...HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT? WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF OUR GUESTS BECAME DISPLEASED?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT? THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
I JUST SERVE THEM THE BEST WAY I KNOW HOW. THERE WEREN'T ANY COMPLAINTS, SO WHY ARE YOU BOTHERING ME WITH THIS "PROPER ETIQUETTE" STUFF NOW? IT'S NOT LIKE I KNOW ANY OF IT!
OH. IT'S THE PROPRIETRESS AND THAT BOY
WHICH IS WHY I'M ASKING YOU TO LEARN
OH NO. YOU DON'T DO NOT TRY THIS. I'M NOT TAKING OVER
I'M NOT GONNA GIVE IN LIKE NIISAN DID. AND SPEAKING OF WHICH, SINCE HE AGREED, WHY NOT JUST FORCE HIM OUT OF THAT DAMNED COMA OF HIS AND MAKE HIM DO IT? THE HOSPITAL'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
ATSUSHI! WATCH YOUR MOUTH!

ATSUSHI WAIT..
!
AH GOOD..
GOOD MORNING
HEY WAIT WAIT UP
OH!
THEY SAY IT'S BAD TO KEEP YOUR FEELINGS ALL PENT UP INSIDE, SO IT'S BEST TO LET THEM OUT
I'VE GOT TIME, SO I CAN LEND YOU MY EARS IF YOU WANT

There, there. It's gonna be all right, you'll see.
Er, yeah, just let it all out. It's not like I'm gonna be here long enough to be embarrassed. Wait a minute, we weren't talking about me.
Anyway, if you're willing to talk, I'm willing to listen, okay?
WHOA!
WELL UP
. . .
. . .
LAST SPRING,
AFTER NIISAN GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, FROM OUT OF THE BLUE HE JUST DECIDED TO MOVE OUT.

PROMISE ME YOU WON'T SPREAD AROUND WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU
YOU HAVE MY WORD
glance
NIISAN HAD A MALE LOVER, IT SEEMS...
AND MY FOLKS HIT THE ROOF WHEN HE TOLD THEM
THEY'D INTENDED FOR HIM TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS, YOU SEE...
AND NIISAN APPARENTLY ALREADY KNEW THAT,
WHICH ULTIMATELY WAS WHY HE DECIDED TO LEAVE HOME IN THE FIRST PLACE
BUT RIGHT AFTER THAT...
HE GOT INTO A SERIOUS ACCIDENT.
AND HAS BEEN IN A COMA EVER SINCE.

AND THAT'S HOW YOU GOT SADDLED WITH TAKING OVER INSTEAD?
I'M NOWHERE NEAR AS CAPABLE AS NIISAN
HE WAS THE TYPE WHO COULD DO ANYTHING AND BEAR IT ALL WITH A SMILE
THEY NEVER BOTHERED WITH ME BEFORE
NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN THEY EXPECT ME TO TAKE OVER?
YOU THINK VERY HIGHLY OF YOUR BROTHER, DON'T YOU?
I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE
I MEAN I SURE AS HELL DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO JUST UP AND LEAVE LIKE THAT

PLUS, I COULDN'T GET OVER THE FACT THAT THE BROTHER I LOVED AND RESPECTED BATTED FOR THE OTHER TEAM.
IT JUST FELT LIKE I DIDN'T KNOW HIM ANYMORE
...
THIS IS GOING TO SOUND VERY WEIRD, BUT JUST HEAR ME OUT, OKAY? DID YOUR BROTHER EVER HAVE SOME SORT OF ODD POWER?
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?
UM WELL, IT'S JUST..
THEN DO YOU LOOK LIKE HIM?
NO, WE COULDN'T LOOK MORE DIFFERENT IN FACT.

IF THIS H..O BEEN THE OLD ME,
SURE
WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME?
ANYWAY I'M THINKING OF GOING FOR A WALK AND GETTING SOMETHING SWEET TO SNACK ON
OH, IS THAT SO? SORRY TO HAVE BOMBARDED YOU WITH SUCH ODDBALL QUESTIONS
MY WRITER'S BLOCK MUST BE WORSE THAN I THOUGHT
THE FIRST THING TO COME TO MIND WOULD'VE BEEN..

YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE ATSUSHI'S OLDER BROTHER, WOULD YOU?

THE NAME'S HITOSHI
SO IT REALLY IS YOU HUH?
I SPOKE WITH ATSUSHI EARLIER TODAY
AND I SUPPOSE YOU DO HAVE THAT UNMISTAKABLE OLDER SIBLING AIR ABOUT YOU
SINCE ALL I'VE BEEN DOING IS SLEEPING ALL THIS WHILE I FIGURED ALL THE PENT UP ENERGY HAD TO GO SOMEWHERE FANCY THAT IT'D TURN OUT TO BE LIKE THIS DON'T YOU THINK?
AFTER I REALIZED THAT I WAS ABLE TO BORROW MY BROTHER'S BODY I FOUND THAT I QUITE ENJOY TAKING WALKS LIKE THIS LATE AT NIGHT
WELL THAT'S GREAT AND ALL BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO LIKE IT VERY MUCH IF HE EVER FINDS OUT
YOU THINK?
ATSUSHI, HE..
splish
HE MUST REALLY DESPISE ME NOW
YOU REALLY THINK SO? IT DIDN'T LOOK THAT WAY TO ME
HE WAS THERE WHEN I CAME OUT TO THE PARENTAL UNITS
I STILL REMEMBER THE HONEST-TO-GOODNESS LOOK OF DISGUST HE HAD ON HIS FACE

HEY.
WELL, I CAN'T SAY I BLAME HIM
HE IS STILL VERY YOUNG AFTER ALL.
reach
PRUDE. HM
WELL, I GUESS THERE IS THAT
?
WE'RE NOT DOING THIS
Tch
THAT BODY DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU AND IT'S UNDERAGE TO BOOT
PRUDE
AND GIVES ME QUITE THE FRINGE BENEFIT, TOO
?
I JUST THOUGHT OF A WAY AROUND THIS
A WAY THAT GETS US BOTH OFF SOMEWHAT BUT LEAVES MY MORALS INTACT

IT WON'T HURT TO AT LEAST TRY I SUPPOSE.
'COS AFTER ALL I'M NOT GOING TO BE HERE LONG ENOUGH TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES
EXCUSE ME.
I HEARD YOU CALLED FOR ME NAGUMO-SAN?
THAT I DID
COME ON IN
SORRY FOR THE INTRU—
—SION. WAH!
GLOMP

stroke
stroke
SOPPY ABOUT THIS
NH—
...
...
wi—
Mm
pat
pat

wedge
HANG ON TIGHT NOW, 'COS THERE AIN'T NO SEATBELTS FOR THIS RIDE.
huff
Nh
Mnghh
SQUEEZE
SO, WHAT DID YOU THINK?

WASN'T SO BAD DOING THAT WITH A GUY NOW, WAS IT?
. . .
NO
HA HA
I'M REALLY GOING TO MISS THAT STRAIGHT-FORWARD HONESTY OF YOURS.
BUT WITH THAT ASIDE, DO YOU THINK YOU'VE COME TO UNDER-STAND YOUR BROTHER IF ONLY A LITTLE?
AND JUST SO YOU KNOW THERE ARE MANY OTHER WAYS TO GO ABOUT FEELING GOOD WITH SOMEONE
'COS WOULD YOU REALLY HOLD IT AGAINST YOUR BROTHER WHEN ALL HE DID WAS FALL IN LOVE?
SO HOLD ON TO THAT PERFECT IMAGE THAT YOU HAVE OF HIM BECAUSE HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO DESERVE LESS

BUT STILL, DESPITE YOUR CONFUSION, IN YOUR OWN WAY YOU'VE NEVER REALLY STOPPED LOVING HIM
AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU A GREAT KID. A LOT BETTER THAN MOST.
JUST KEEP ON BEING THIS WAY. YOU'LL DO WELL IN LIFE.
NAGUMO-SAN,
WHY DOES IT SEEM LIKE YOU KNOW SO MUCH?
YOU THINK SO?
I KNOW MY IMAGINATION CAN RUN PRETTY WILD SOMETIMES. FOR ONE BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE WISDOM BIT.
MY HEAD.
Heh heh

I CAN KEEP IT UP FOR AS LONG AS YOU WANT
IT FEELS GOOD .. ..WHEN YOU RUB IT
I'M GLAD
OH, HEY.
turn

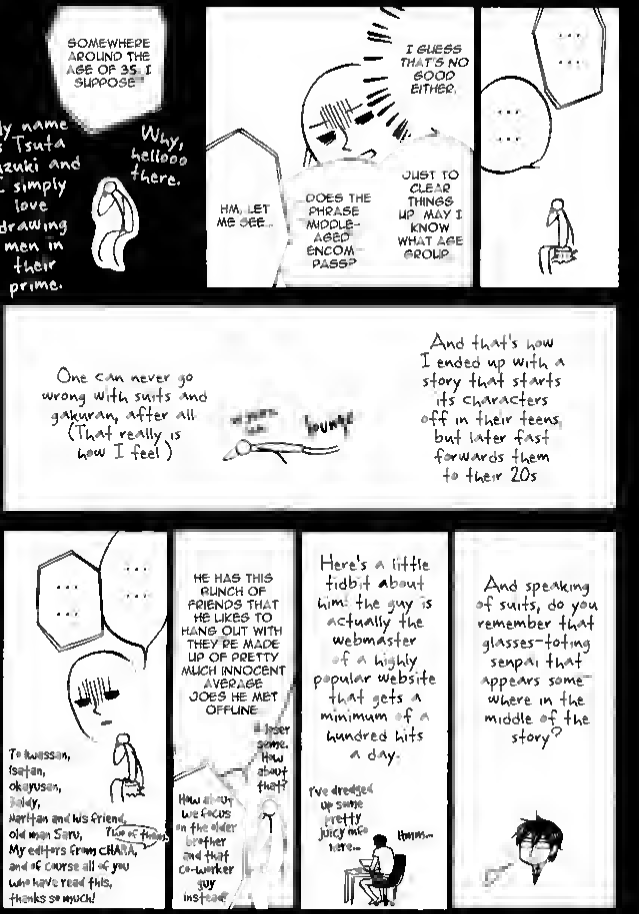
GOOD MORNING.
HITOSHI, I BELIEVE?
THAT FRINGE BENEFIT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE OTHER NIGHT WAS THIS WHAT YOU MEANT?
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU AND ATSUSHI
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! HONEST!
ALL I DID WAS KISS HIM! SERIOUSLY! THAT'S IT!
All you did was "kiss him"?
WHEN HE'S "UNDERAGE, TO BOOT"?
Well, can't say I didn't feel bad about it at all.
YEAH. WELL, I JUST WANTED TO HELP HIM EASE UP A LITTLE, YOU KNOW?
HAVE YOU FALLEN FOR ATSUSHI NAGUMO-SAN?
I THINK I VERY WELL MIGHT HAVE
THEN WOULDN'T WHAT YOU DID LEAVE YOU HOLDING THE SHORT END OF THE STICK?

I'M LEAVING TOMORROW. AFTER ALL.
YOU MAY VERY WELL BE RIGHT
...
THANKS.
ruffle
HA, HA. YE..H. S..ME HERE.
YOU TAKE CARE WHEN YOU DO THAT STROLLING ON WATER THING OF YOURS, OKAY?
I WILL.
!

UNTIL I WAKE, I'LL DO EXACTLY THAT
NAGUMO-SAN!
OHP I DIDN'T MENTION IT EARLIER?
YOU'RE.. LEAVING.. TODAY..?
I HADN'T... huff HEARD AT ALL. pant wheeze
SNAPS UP
PLEASE COME AGAIN REAL SOON, OKAY?
BECAUSE NEXT TIME, I'LL MAKE SURE THAT I'LL BE THE ONE TO TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR NEEDS!

...
GOTCHA. YOU'LL SEE ME AGAIN SOON.
Here, let me get that bag for you
Oh, it's all right. I can handle it
No really, it's my job
Uhh... it's coming along!
HUH?
By the way, how's your work coming?
The Dream Seen From Upon The Sea
END

The Editor-in-Chief
I-I'M SORRY?!
I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD POSSIBLY WORK FROM THE "MIDDLE-AGED" LIKE ANGLE?
SO,
To be honest, during the initial stages of serialization, I was a little stuck for ideas.
Konnichiwa! This is Tsuta Suzuki.
I kind of want to try drawing it.
WELL... UM...
"BOTTOM WHO'S MIDDLE-AGED". WAS WHAT I SAID...
UH...
I had thought the first thing I had to do was to make whatever idea I had clear to the other party.
To those I'm speaking to for the first time, "Howdy!" And to those I'm not, "Konnichiwa!"
AM I CORRECT TO ASSUME YOU HAVE IN MIND A CHARACTER THAT'S MUCH, MUCH OLDER?
WELL MORE OR LESS, I SUPPOSE
IF I WERE TO SAY, BASE IT ON A SCHOOL SETTING IT'D BE SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT BANGING THE JANITOR
WHA-?!
This is my very first work published by CHARA
YES, YES THAT DOES SOUND QUITE WORKABLE, INDEED...
HOW ABOUT I WORK IT FROM THE SUPERIOR/SUBORDINATE DYNAMIC
LIKE, SAY FOR EXAMPLE, A NEW EMPLOYEE NAILING THE DIRECTOR...
"AHEM" I'M AFRAID THAT'S A LITTLE TOO... RISQUÉ, SO TO SPEAK
IS THAT A NO, THEN?
Let's see now, Tokyo's area code is 03...


SOMEWHERE AROUND THE AGE OF 35, I SUPPOSE
My name is Tsuta Suzuki and I simply love drawing men in their prime.
Why, hellooo there.
I GUESS THAT'S NO GOOD EITHER.
HM, LET ME SEE...
DOES THE PHRASE MIDDLE-AGED ENCOM-PASS?
JUST TO CLEAR THINGS UP, MAY I KNOW WHAT AGE GROUP
...
...
...
...
One can never go wrong with suits and gakuran, after all (That really is how I feel)
DUNK
And that's how I ended up with a story that starts its characters off in their teens, but later fast forwards them to their 20s
...
...
To kwissan, tsutan, okayusan, Jacky, Hartman and his friend, old man Saru, My editors from CHARA, and of course all of you who have read this, thanks so much!
Time of thanks
HE HAS THIS BUNCH OF FRIENDS THAT HE LIKES TO HANG OUT WITH THEY'RE MADE UP OF PRETTY MUCH INNOCENT AVERAGE JOES HE MET OFFLINE
Loser scene. How about that?
How about we focus on the older brother and that co-worker guy instead
Here's a little tidbit about him: the guy is actually the webmaster of a highly popular website that gets a minimum of a hundred hits a day.
I've dredged up some pretty juicy info here...
Hmmm...
And speaking of suits, do you remember that glasses-toting senpai that appears somewhere in the middle of the story?

■初出一覧
3軒隣の遠い人
vol.1 ～ vol.4
／Chara Selection（07）1月号 ～ 7月号
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# Sangen Tonari no Todi Hito

By Suzuki Tsuta

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Volume 1

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Chara COMICS

# 3軒隣の遠い人

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What if you were to meet your childhood friend again after ten years of separation? This was exactly the case for Mitsuya, a recently transferred company executive who found out that the person living three doors down from his new apartment was none other than Noboru, his older brother's best friend — and his first love. As a young and brash middle schooler, Mitsuya had forcefully kissed Noboru and drove him away. Deeply regretting his actions, he learns to suppress not only his feelings. But now, being with Noboru again is bringing all those heated memories back, as if they were never gone to begin with.

CHARA COMICS

鈴木ツタ

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# PROFILE

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Tsuta Suzuki
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Star sign - Sagittarius
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POB - Ehime Prefecture
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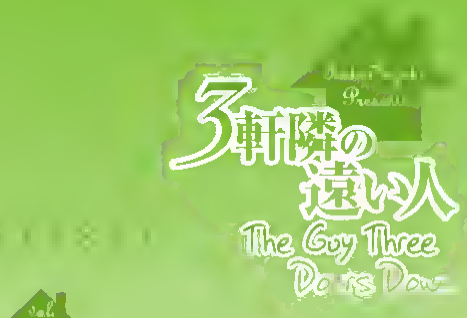
- Just when I thought that we could all just do with Spring and Autumn, I start longing to be in the places further up north or the islands down south

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